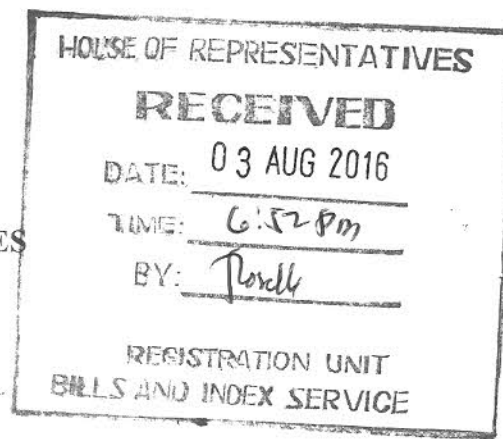


Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2439



Introduced by: Representative Manuel Jose M. Dalipe

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to formally extend the validity of the Philippine Passport from the present period of five (5) years to ten (10) years for the purpose of easing the burden of Filipinos in the current lengthy processes during passport renewal.

The Philippine passport is considered as an official document issued by the Philippine government to its citizens, thereby requesting other governments to allow Filipinos to pass safely and freely, and provide protection in case needed. It also affords protection to Filipinos whenever they need help or assistance of the concerned diplomatic and consular officer of the Republic of the Philippines abroad.

Hence, it is imperative that Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, should be amended insofar as the extension of the validity of the passport from five (5) years to ten (10) years purposely to unburden passport applicants from the inconvenience of long period in securing and renewal of passports subject to the revised applicable passport fee under the circumstances.

The provisions requiring the validity of the passport of minors or those below 18 years old as five (5) years due to the significant changes in their physical profile and appearance which should be reflected in the identification page of their passports shall remain in force and effect.

In view of the foregoing reasons, approval of this is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Dalipe", written over the printed name.

**MANUEL JOSE M. DALIPE**  
Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga City

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8239, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996"**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 10 of Republic Act 8239 is hereby amended as follows:

"SEC 10. Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of [five (5)] TEN (10) years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than [five (5)] TEN (10) years whenever [in the interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary] NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY OR PUBLIC HEALTH SO REQUIRES OR WHENEVER THE APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS APPEAR INADEQUATE TO ESTABLISH FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP AND THE TRAVEL IS FOR A COMPELLING REASON: *Provided, finally,* That a new passport may be issued to replace one which validity has expired [the old passport being returned to the holder after cancellation]."

"THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE TEN (10)-YEAR VALIDITY PASSPORTS WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, AS AMENDED: PROVIDED, THAT FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE, ONLY A PASSPORT WITH A FIVE (5)-YEAR VALIDITY SHALL BE ISSUED."

SEC. 2. **Repealing Clause.** All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. **Separability Clause.** If any provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect immediately following its complete and full publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,