

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2970

Introduced by
HON. ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN" ERMITA-BUHAIN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	16 AUG 2016
TIME:	2:10 PM
BY:	<i>[Signature]</i>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is in furtherance of the provision of the 1987 Constitution, to wit:

"Neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law." (Section 6, Article III)

Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue a passport or any travel document to any citizen of the Philippines or individual provided that he complies with the requirements under Republic Act No. 8239 or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996.

In his first State of the Nation Address last July 25, 2016, **President Rodrigo R. Duterte** asked Congress to pass a law that would lengthen the validity of passports to ease and lessen the frequency and volume of applications for new and renewal of passports thereby reduce, if not eliminate the long queuing of applicants at the Department Foreign Affairs (DFA).

In compliance with the aforesaid provision of the Constitution and directive of the President, this bill aims to extend the validity of regular Philippine passports issued to adult applicants from five (5) years to ten (10) years while the regular passports issued to minors shall be valid for a period of five (5) years.

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

[Signature]
ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN" ERMITA-BUHAIN

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE REGULAR PHILIPPINE PASSPORT
ISSUED TO ADULT APPLICANTS FROM FIVE (5) YEARS TO TEN (10)
YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Validity.* – Regular passports issued **TO ADULT APPLICANTS** under this Act shall be valid for a period of [five (5)] **TEN (10)** years[:], **WHILE REGULAR PASSPORTS ISSUED TO MINORS SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS:** *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority **IN ITS DISCRETION** may [limit] **REDUCE** the period of validity **AS PROVIDED HEREIN** [to less than five (5) years;] whenever in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary: *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."

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,