


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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2432

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by: Representative Henry S. Oaminal

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution explicitly guarantees the right of the people to travel except upon the lawful order of the court or in the interest of national security, public safety or public health.

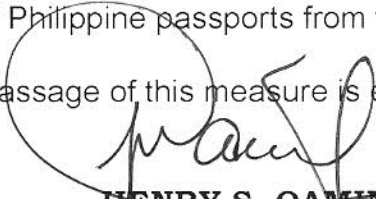
In pursuance of the above Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996" was enacted into law to enable the people to go anywhere in the world wherever he or she desires to go. However, the validity of passports allowed under Section 10 of this law, is good only five (5) years.

Considering the tedious process and also the cost in obtaining a passport, a five-year passport validity is too short that it gives rise to numerous problems like having to fall in a very long queue, having longer appointment date and soon. This situation opens window of opportunity to fixers to facilitate the transaction in exchange for a much higher cost than the regular processing to the detriment of the poor people.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte during his First State of the Nation Address mentioned the difficulties being experienced by our countrymen like having to spend more time in a long queue in securing documents in the government like licenses, passports, etc that he ordered to extend their validity to a longer period to avoid experiencing such unnecessary hardship.

This bill, therefore, is a concrete gesture to President Duterte's public directive to certain government agencies like the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to extend the validity of Philippine passports from five (5) to ten (10) years.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


HENRY S. OAMINAL
Representative
Second District, Misamis Occidental

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS FROM FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF 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, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, is hereby amended to read 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 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. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,