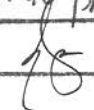


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 2153

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine passport has a short expiry date by present international standards.

While passports issued by other states are valid up to 10 years, the one Filipinos use for travelling is valid for five years.

Recent technology advances, however, have installed security features against forgery and tampering in this very important document, foreclosing the need for a shorter validity period as a defense against counterfeiting.

The Philippines should adopt the international benchmark of passport valid for a decade. Doing so will bring relief to Filipinos who have to spend time and money in queuing up for passport replacement.

Because passports can only be applied for in a few urban centers areas, rural residents have no choice to travel long distances to secure one.

The same plight is experienced by Filipinos working overseas who have to go to distant Philippine consular offices in their host country, or if there is no diplomatic presence there, in the next.

Another option is to apply for passports in the Philippines during their vacation or leave from work. But as this takes time, many end up squandering the short period which could have been used for leisure and rekindling family ties in applying for a passport which may take a month from booking an appointment to its actual release.

If approved, this bill will spare millions of Filipinos of what has been universally described as the agony of navigating through the bureaucratic maze in securing a travel document form. This is one anti-red tape measure that brings comfort to the people.


ENRICO A. PINEDA

Representative, 1PACMAN Partylist


MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO

Representative, 1PACMAN Partylist

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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

AN ACT
LENGTHENING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT TO TEN
(10) YEARS, PROVIDING THE CONDITIONS WHEREBY THE VALIDITY PERIOD
MAY BE LIMITED, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239

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

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

2 “Sec. 10.Validity. – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a
3 period of [five (5)]**TEN (10)** years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority
4 may limit the period of validity to less than [five (5)] **TEN (10)**years; whenever
5 [in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such
6 restriction is necessary:]**THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
7 **DEEMS THAT NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY OR PUBLIC**
8 **HEALTH SO REQUIRES OR WHENEVER THE APPLICANT’S**
9 **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS APPEAR INADEQUATE TO ESTABLISH**
10 **FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP AND THE TRAVEL IS FOR A COMPELLING**
11 **REASON AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT:***Provided,*
12 *finally,* That a new passport may be issued to replace one which validity has
13 expired, the old passport being returned to the holder after cancellation.

14 **SEC. 2.***Implementing Rules and Regulations*–The Department of Foreign Affairs shall,
15 within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, revise and reform the implementing
16 guidelines of Republic Act No. 8239.

17 **SEC. 3.***Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions
18 thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 4.***Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication
20 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,