



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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3284**



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**Introduced by Representative LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to provide for a new passport law, repealing for the purpose Republic Act (RA) No. 8239, otherwise known as the "*Philippine Passport Act of 1996*".

Section 6, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides, in part:

*"Sec. 6. x x x. 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."*

Pursuant to the aforementioned Constitutional mandate, RA No. 8239 was enacted in 1996. Its main objective is to regulate the issuance of passports or any travel document to any citizen or individual in accordance with the requirements stated in the law.

Since the passage of RA No. 8239, a number of laws were passed which affect the passport process such as RA No. 8552, otherwise known as the "*Domestic Adoption Act of 1998*" and RA No. 9226, also known as the "*Citizenship and Reacquisition Act of 2003*". This bill aims to update and reflect current laws that affect the process of issuing passports.

This measure likewise simplifies the passport documentation requirements by requiring the submission of specific documents; revises the list of persons entitled to diplomatic and official passports; provides for the issuance of passports with five (5)- or ten (10)-year validity; creates a committee to process and adjudicate complaints; and imposes stiffer penalties against persons who use or conspire and connive with others to use fraudulent passports.

A bill of similar intent was filed during the Sixteenth Congress with Representative Al Francis C. Bichara as its principal author.

It is on the basis of the foregoing considerations that the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Villarica'.

**LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**  
4<sup>th</sup> District, Bulacan



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE**  
**REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-**  
**NINE (R.A. 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:*

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** — This Act shall be called the “*New Philippine Passport*  
2 *Act*”.

3  
4       **SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.*** — The people’s constitutional right to travel is inviolable.  
5 Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue passports using tamper proof and latest  
6 data management technology as much as practicable or any travel document to any citizen of  
7 the Philippines or individual who complies with the requirements of this Act. The right to  
8 travel may be impaired only when national security, public safety, or public health requires.  
9 To enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of this right, only minimum requirements for  
10 application and issuance of passports and other travel documents shall be prescribed. Action  
11 on such application and the issuance thereof shall be expedited.

12  
13       **SEC. 3. *Definitions of Terms.*** — As used in this Act:

14  
15       a) *Ambassadors* refer to those who have been appointed as chiefs of mission and have  
16 served as Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary;

b) *Consular offices* refer to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) offices located in Metro Manila and regional hubs where consular services, including passport and authentication services, and consular assistance are provided;

c) *Passport* refers to a document issued by the Philippine government to its citizens and requesting other governments to allow its citizens to pass safely and freely, and to provide all lawful aid and protection if needed;

d) *Post* refers to a Philippine diplomatic and consular post such as an embassy or consulate;

e) *Supporting Documents* refer to papers or documents which are required to be submitted with the passport application supporting claims to Filipino citizenship to complete the application for a passport without which such application shall be deemed incomplete or otherwise become subject to denial by the issuing authority; and

f) *Travel Document* refers to a certification with the relevant personal details of the bearer, which is issued in lieu of a passport, by the DFA or Post based on grounds provided in Section 16 of this Act.

**SEC. 4. *Authority to Issue, Deny or Cancel.*** — The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as Secretary, or any duly authorized consular officer assigned in the Philippines or at a post may issue, deny or cancel a passport in accordance with Sections 6, 8 and 9 of this Act. The issuance of a passport may not be denied if the safety or welfare of a Filipino is at stake, unless a travel document is sufficient for the repatriation or return trip to the Philippines. The denial or cancellation of a passport is not a mode of losing Philippine citizenship.

**SEC. 5. *Cooperation with Local Government Units.*** — The DFA shall issue rules and regulations on the guidelines and mechanisms of its cooperation with local government units on passport services.

**SEC. 6. *Requirements for the Issuance of Passport.*** — The Secretary or a duly authorized representative shall issue a passport to an applicant who is a Filipino citizen and has complied with the following requirements:

a) A duly accomplished application form and photographs of such number, size and style as may be prescribed by the DFA;

b) The applicant's birth certificate or the foundling certificate in security paper issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) or a certified true copy (CTC) of birth certificate issued by the Local Civil Registry Office (LCRO) duly authenticated by the PSA: *Provided*, That if the birth of the applicant has not been registered yet, or if such birth certificate is destroyed, damaged, or not available due to other causes, the applicant shall apply for

1 delayed registration of birth with the LCRO where the applicant was born. Upon compliance  
2 with the requirements for delayed registration of birth, the LCRO shall issue to the applicant  
3 a certification of pending application for delayed registration of birth attaching thereto a copy  
4 of an accomplished certificate of live birth which is the subject of delayed registration. The  
5 certification and the accomplished certificate of live birth shall be sufficient to support an  
6 application for passport in addition to other papers which the DFA may require from the  
7 applicant such as certification of no prior registration or certification of previous birth  
8 registration from the PSA;

9  
10 c) In the absence of a birth certificate or a foundling certificate, a baptismal certificate  
11 issued by a Christian religious organization, or similar or equivalent certificate issued by a  
12 non-Christian religious group, attesting to the applicant's having been admitted to such  
13 religious group or sect at an early age and where it is indicated that the applicant is a Filipino  
14 citizen, which shall be accompanied by a joint affidavit by two (2) persons who have personal  
15 knowledge of the applicant and of such age as to credibly state the applicant's date and place  
16 of birth, citizenship, and names of parents: *Provided*, That a Filipino who does not belong to  
17 any religious group or sect and whose parents for any reason failed to have the applicant  
18 baptized shall be exempted from the baptismal certificate requirement: *Provided, further*,  
19 That in lieu thereof, the applicant shall execute an affidavit to that effect duly corroborated by  
20 an affidavit of at least two (2) persons of good reputation who personally know such fact;

21  
22 d) For a married woman who opts to adopt the surname of her husband, a local civil  
23 registry copy of her marriage contract duly authenticated by the PSA: *Provided*, That a  
24 married woman who was widowed or divorced in accordance with Article 26 of Executive  
25 Order (EO) No. 209, otherwise known as the "*Family Code of the Philippines*", as amended  
26 by EO No. 227, or under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1083, otherwise known as the "*Code*  
27 *of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines*", or whose marriage was annulled or declared by  
28 a court of law as void, and who opts to revert to the use of her maiden name must present the  
29 death certificate of her spouse issued by the PSA or a CTC of death certificate issued by the  
30 LCRO, duly authenticated by the PSA or a CTC of the divorce decree, court decree of  
31 annulment or declaration of nullity showing dissolution of marriage as recognized by  
32 Philippine courts and duly registered at the PSA or the LCRO:

33  
34 e) For a naturalized citizen, a certified copy of the naturalization certificate, or a certified  
35 naturalization certificate of spouse or parent duly registered by the LCRO and authenticated  
36 by the PSA if citizenship is claimed through naturalization of the spouse or the parent;

37  
38 f) For a minor applicant, the application may be filed by either parent: *Provided*, That if a  
39 person other than the minor's parents files the application, a special power of attorney duly  
40 executed by either parent must be presented for this purpose: *Provided, further*, That in the  
41 case of an abandoned, neglected, dependent or surrendered child, a certification declaring the  
42 child as legally available for adoption by the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
43 (DSWD) and an affidavit of consent executed by the legal guardian or the DSWD must be  
44 presented;

g) The consent of the DSWD, if the applicant is a prospective adoptive child under Republic Act No. 8552, otherwise known as the "*Domestic Adoption Act of 1998*".

If the applicant is a prospective adoptive child of a non-Filipino citizen, or a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity under Republic Act No. 8043, otherwise known as the "*Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995*", the following shall be presented:

(1) Authenticated birth certificate from the PSA or a foundling certificate from the DSWD;

(2) Placement Authority issued by the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB); and

(3) Certification issued by the DSWD;

h) For an applicant who has reacquired Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225, otherwise known as the "*Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003*", and other existing laws, the following shall be presented:

(1) Identification certificate issued by appropriate agencies; and

(2) Such other documents as may be necessary or required for the issuance of Philippine passport;

i) In case of discrepancy, the applicant's name in the birth certificate shall prevail over that appearing in any other public or private document: *Provided, however*, That by operation of law or through court order, the applicant is permitted to use a name other than what is officially recorded in the PSA or the LCRO; and

j) If the applicant is a government employee, the travel authority issued by the head of a department, agency or office may be required only if the applicant is applying for an official passport.

**SEC. 7. Application.** – A person applying for a passport, either for the first time or for the renewal of a previously issued passport, may be required to appear in person for photo and data capturing.

The parent or legal guardian may assist an applicant who is a minor.

An applicant who is illiterate, physically disabled or a senior citizen may be assisted by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or by anyone belonging to the same household.

The DFA shall provide a special procedure to facilitate the passport application of illiterate, physically disabled and senior citizens.



1 An applicant may also be assisted by any licensed travel or recruitment agency duly  
2 accredited by the DFA.

3  
4 In the case of a passport application filed by a recruitment or travel agency or passport-  
5 related service provider duly accredited by the DFA, the agent shall be responsible for the  
6 authenticity of the supporting documents secured and presented by the agent to meet the  
7 requirements for the application of passports.

8  
9 The DFA shall have the right to require alternative documents as may be specified in the  
10 implementing rules and regulations formulated to enforce this Act.

11  
12 **SEC. 8. *Types of Passports.*** – The Secretary or the authorized representative or consular  
13 officer may issue the following types of passports:

14  
15 a) Diplomatic passports are issued to persons with diplomatic status or who are on  
16 diplomatic mission such as:

17  
18 (1) The President and former Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines;

19  
20 (2) The Vice-President and former Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines;

21  
22 (3) The Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and former  
23 Senate Presidents and Speakers of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the  
24 Philippines;

25  
26 (4) The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and the presiding  
27 Justice of the Court of Appeals;

28  
29 (5) The Secretary, Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the DFA;

30  
31 (6) The Members of Congress;

32  
33 (7) The Secretaries of all the departments of the Executive branch;

34  
35 (8) The Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the  
36 Philippines;

37  
38 (9) The Chiefs of Mission and Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career  
39 diplomatic service, including designated Attachés from the DFA and attached agencies of the  
40 government;

41  
42 (10) The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas;

(11) The official delegates to international or regional conferences accorded full powers by the President; and

(12) The spouses and unmarried minor children of the abovementioned officials when accompanying or following to join them in an official mission abroad.

The President of the Philippines or the Secretary may grant diplomatic passports to officials and persons other than those enumerated herein who are on official mission abroad or are granted full powers by the President;

b) Official passports are issued to all government officials and employees on official trip abroad but who are not on a diplomatic mission or have not been accorded diplomatic status such as:

(1) The Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Cabinet other than the DFA, the Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals and other members of the Judiciary, and all other government officials and employees travelling on official time;

(2) Staff officers and employees of the DFA assigned to diplomatic and consular posts, and officers and representatives of other government departments and agencies assigned abroad;

(3) Persons in the domestic service and household members of officials assigned to diplomatic or consular posts not exceeding two (2): *Provided*, That an increase in domestic service and household members of such officials shall be approved by the Secretary; and

(4) Spouse and minor children, including unmarried children who are not minors but dependent on the staff officers and employees of the DFA assigned to diplomatic or consular posts and offices, and representatives of other government agencies assigned abroad, when accompanying or following to join them; and

c) Regular passports are issued to Filipino citizens who are not eligible or entitled to diplomatic or official passports, including government officials or employees going abroad for pleasure or other personal reasons. Government officials and employees and members of their families may, during their incumbency in office, hold two (2) passports simultaneously: (1) a regular passport for private travel; and (2) a diplomatic or official passport when travelling abroad on diplomatic or official business. The spouse and minor children of persons entitled to diplomatic or official passports shall be issued regular passports, if they are not accompanying or following to join them.

**SEC. 9. Grounds for Denial of Issuance of Passport or Cancellation of Passport —**  
The application for a passport may be denied or an existing passport may be cancelled on the following grounds only:



1 a) *Denial*

2  
3 (1) Failure to comply with the requirements in accordance with Section 6 or violation of  
4 the provisions of this Act;

5  
6 (2) Court order to arrest or hold the departure of the passport applicant in connection  
7 with a pending criminal case;

8  
9 (3) Court order declaring the passport applicant as a fugitive from justice;

10  
11 (4) Final court decision convicting the passport applicant of a crime: *Provided*, That the  
12 convict, upon release on account of completion of sentence or grant of amnesty, pardon or  
13 probation, may apply for a passport; and

14  
15 (5) Request of the parent exercising parental authority or the legal guardian of a minor  
16 child: *Provided*, That a court order to withhold the issuance of a passport or to hold the  
17 departure of the minor child shall be required if both parents exercise parental authority and  
18 they disagree on the issuance of a passport or travel abroad of their minor child;

19  
20 b) *Cancellation*

21  
22 (1) If the passport was obtained in violation of the provisions of this Act;

23  
24 (2) Court order to arrest or hold the departure of the passport holder in connection with a  
25 pending criminal case;

26  
27 (3) Court order declaring the passport holder as a fugitive from justice;

28  
29 (4) Final court decision convicting the passport holder of a crime: *Provided*, That the  
30 convict, upon release on account of completion of sentence or grant of amnesty, pardon or  
31 probation, may apply for a passport;

32  
33 (5) Request of the parent exercising parental authority or the legal guardian of a minor  
34 child: *Provided*, That a court order to cancel the passport or to hold the departure of the minor  
35 child shall be required if both parents exercise parental authority and they disagree on the  
36 travel abroad of their minor child; and

37  
38 (6) Such other disqualifications as provided under Philippine law and jurisprudence.

39  
40 **SEC. 10. DFA Passport Review Committee (DPRC).** – The DFA *motu proprio* or upon  
41 receipt of any verified complaint that necessitates cancellation or denial of passport shall  
42 summon the passport holder who is given fifteen (15) working days upon receipt of the  
43 complaint to reply and submit such proof to contravene the complaint.

1 A DFA Passport Review Committee (DPRC) under the Office of the Secretary is hereby  
2 created for this purpose.

4 The DPRC shall also review the status of passports of Filipinos overseas who are being  
5 investigated for alleged offenses against Filipinos.

7 The DFA shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, composition,  
8 functions, procedures and other related details of the DPRC in accordance with this Act.

10 **SEC. 11. *Appeal.*** – Any person who was aggrieved as a result of the application of this  
11 Act or of the implementing rules and regulations issued by the Secretary shall have the right  
12 to appeal to the Secretary whose decision may be reviewed by the appropriate court.

14 **SEC. 12. *Validity.*** – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of  
15 five (5) or ten (10) years.

17 The passport applicant shall have the option to apply for a five (5)-year or a ten (10)-year  
18 passport: *Provided,* That minor applicants shall be issued passports valid only for five (5)  
19 years.

21 **SEC. 13. *Ownership of Passports.*** – A Philippine passport remains at all times the  
22 property of the government, the holder being a mere possessor thereof as long as it is valid  
23 and the same may not be surrendered to any person or entity other than the government or its  
24 representative: *Provided,* That the passport of any Filipino citizen may be voluntarily  
25 surrendered to any post for storage and safekeeping for which a proper receipt shall be issued  
26 for presentation when reclaiming the passport at a later date.

28 **SEC. 14. *Names and Titles.*** – The passport shall contain the full name of the applicant,  
29 but shall not include any title, profession or job description.

31 **SEC. 15. *Markings and Stamps.*** – All passports issued by the DFA shall not contain any  
32 marking, annotation or stamp pertaining to travel restrictions. Limitation of travel shall be  
33 administered through travel advisories or other means which do not necessitate marking or  
34 stamping of passports.

36 **SEC. 16. *Travel Documents.*** — A travel document, in lieu of a passport, may be issued  
37 to:

39 a) A Filipino citizen returning to the Philippines who for one reason or another has lost a  
40 passport or cannot be issued a regular passport;

42 b) A Filipino citizen who has lost a passport while in transit to another country;

44 c) A Filipino citizen being repatriated to the Philippines;

1 d) An alien spouse of a Filipino and their dependents who have not been naturalized as  
2 Filipinos and who are travelling to the Philippines or are permanent residents of the  
3 Philippines;

4  
5 e) Filipino citizens performing *Umrah* and *Hajj*; and

6  
7 f) A stateless person or refugee who is granted such status in the Philippines.  
8

9 **SEC. 17. Loss or Destruction.** – The loss or destruction of a passport shall be  
10 immediately reported to the DFA or post. The holder of such passport shall submit to the  
11 DFA or post an affidavit stating in detail the circumstances of such loss or destruction. The  
12 DFA shall then furnish the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration  
13 copies of the affidavit.  
14

15 For those who are abroad, copies of the affidavit shall be forwarded by the post to the  
16 DFA Office of Consular Affairs, which shall, in coordination with the Office of Legal  
17 Affairs, transmit a copy of the affidavit to the National Bureau of Investigation and the  
18 Bureau of Immigration. The transmittal of the affidavit shall be accompanied by a request for  
19 the confiscation of the lost passport if found, and to investigate or, if necessary, detain the  
20 person attempting to use or has used the passport. All posts shall be informed of the lost  
21 passport, including pertinent information on the passport and the circumstances of loss.  
22

23 No new passport shall be issued until satisfactory proof is shown that the passport was  
24 actually lost and after the lapse of fifteen (15) days following the date of submission of the  
25 affidavit of loss as herein required: *Provided, however,* That in the case of a passport reported  
26 lost by a Filipino travelling abroad, the post may waive the fifteen (15)-day requirement if the  
27 loss has been proven to the satisfaction of the consular officer: *Provided, further,* That in case  
28 the Filipino who reported the loss of a passport is returning to the Philippines, the holder may  
29 be issued a travel document.  
30

31 In all cases, the fifteen (15)-day rule may be waived at the discretion of the head of the  
32 Office of Consular Affairs or the head of the Consular Section or the Consul General of a  
33 post.  
34

35 **SEC. 18. Fees.** – Reasonable fees shall be collected for the processing, issuance, or  
36 amendment of an existing passport or replacement of a lost passport and the issuance of a  
37 travel document as may be determined by the DFA. The DFA shall prescribe the necessary  
38 fees for passports with five (5)-year and ten (10)-year validities.  
39

40 **SEC. 19. Passport Revolving Fund.** – The DFA may charge a service fee of not more  
41 than Two hundred fifty pesos (Php250.00) for such service rendered to applicants relating to  
42 the processing and issuance of passports requiring special consideration, waiver or issuance  
43 beyond regular office hours. The service fees received by the DFA under this section shall  
44 constitute a revolving fund to be called the “*Passport Revolving Fund*” which may be

utilized by the DFA for the improvement of its passport issuance, consular and other services except travel and transportation allowances and expenses.

The establishment, use and disbursement of the revolving fund shall be subject to the review by the Commission on Audit and according to accounting and auditing rules and regulations, and shall be subject to an annual review by Congress. The Secretary shall submit a report on the disbursement of the fund every six (6) months to both the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

**SEC. 20. Waiver.** – The Secretary is solely authorized to waive any requirement set forth in Section 6 of this Act.

**SEC. 21. Offenses and Penalties.** – A passport, being a proclamation of the citizenship of a Filipino, is superior to all other official documents and as such, shall be accorded the highest respect by its holder. Any act prejudicial to its integrity is a grave crime against the security of the State and shall be penalized accordingly:

a) *Offenses Relating to Issuance; Penalties.* – Any person who:

(1) Acting or claiming to act in any capacity or office under the Republic of the Philippines without lawful authority, accepts passport applications, grants, issues or verifies any passport or travel document to any or for any person whomsoever, or is caught selling in whatever capacity passport application forms, or lost or stolen passports and travel documents shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years; or

(2) Being a diplomatic or consular official authorized to grant, issue, or verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or verifies any such passport to any or for any person not owing allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, whether citizen or not, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years and, upon conviction, be perpetually disqualified from holding public office; or

(3) Being a diplomatic or consular officer, (i) knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or certifies to the authenticity of any passport or travel document for any person not entitled thereto, or (ii) knowingly and willfully issues more than one (1) passport to any person except as provided for in this Act, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years and, upon conviction, be disqualified perpetually from holding public office; or

(4) Acting or claiming to act in any capacity, with the intention to profit thereby, intercepts a person proceeding to the DFA or any of its consular offices to apply for a passport, and persuades, entices, encourages or misleads such applicant to course the application through another person or agency other than the DFA or its personnel on the pretext of facilitating its approval or issuance by the DFA shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than eighteen (18) months but not more than six (6) years;

b) *Offenses Relating to False Statements; Penalties.* – Any person who willfully and knowingly:

(1) Makes any false statement in any application for passport with the intent to induce or secure the issuance of a passport under the authority of the Philippine government, for any purpose, contrary to this Act or rules and regulations prescribed pursuant hereto shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years; or

(2) Uses or attempts to use any passport which was secured in any way by reason of any false statement shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years; or

(3) In addition to the abovementioned fines and penalties, travel and recruitment agencies and passport-related service providers, agents, liaison officers or representatives convicted of offenses relating to false statements shall have their license revoked with all deposits, escrow accounts or guarantee funds deposited or made as requirement of their business forfeited in favor of the government. An officer of the travel or recruitment agency convicted for false statements shall be barred from engaging in the travel or recruitment agency business;

c) *Offenses Relating to Forgery; Penalties.* – Any person who:

(1) Falsely makes, forges, counterfeits, mutilates or alters any passport or travel document or DFA stamps, or any supporting document for a passport application, with the intent of using the same, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Seventy-five thousand pesos (Php75,000.00) but not more than One hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than fifteen (15) years. The possession of the documents herein mentioned shall be *prima facie* evidence of commission of the acts enumerated herein and the intent to use the same; or

(2) Willfully or knowingly uses or attempts to use, or furnishes to another for use any such false, forged, counterfeited, mutilated or altered passport or travel document or any passport validly issued which has become void by the occurrence of any condition herein prescribed shall be punished by a fine of not less than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) but not more than One hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00) and imprisonment of



not less than six (6) years but not more than fifteen (15) years. The officers of corporations, agencies or entities licensed in the travel and recruitment industry shall be held similarly liable as their agents, liaison officers or representatives. Forgeries of five (5) or more passports or travel documents shall be considered as massive forgery tantamount to national sabotage and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php250,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than seven (7) years but not more than seventeen (17) years;

d) *Offenses Relating to Improper Use; Penalties.* – A fine of not less than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) but not more than One hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than fifteen (15) years shall be imposed upon any person who willfully and knowingly:

(1) Uses or attempts to use any passport issued or designed for the use of another or any supporting document for a passport application which belongs to another; or

(2) Uses or attempts to use any passport or supporting document in violation of the conditions or restrictions therein contained, or of the rules prescribed pursuant thereto; or

(3) Furnishes, disposes or delivers a passport to any person other than to that in whose name and for whose use it was issued, except when the applicant is a minor, a senior citizen or physically or mentally incapacitated and the passport is released to the parent, guardian or immediate relative: *Provided*, That in case of an emergency and for humanitarian reasons, at the discretion of the head of the Office of Consular Affairs or the head of the Consular Section or the Consul General of a Post, the passport may be released to a third party upon the submission of a written authorization from the applicant; or

(4) Defaces or destroys a Philippine passport;

e) *Offenses Relating to Multiple Possession; Penalties.* – No person or individual may hold more than one (1) valid passport, except as provided for in Section 8 hereof, and any individual who possesses more than one (1) unexpired passport shall, for every unexpired passport found in his possession, be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day but not more than twelve (12) years: *Provided*, That the maximum fine and imprisonment shall be imposed by the court for any attempt to use or the actual use of an unexpired passport which is not in the name of the user.

In case any of the offenses prohibited in this Act constitutes a violation of the Revised Penal Code and the penalty imposed therein is heavier than that provided in this Act, the latter penalty shall be imposed;



f) *Offenses Relating to Forgery of Visas and Entry Documents; Penalties.* – A fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than three (3) years but not more than ten (10) years shall be imposed upon any person who:

(1) Knowingly forges, counterfeits, alters or falsely makes any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the Philippines or elsewhere with the intent of using the same; or

(2) Knowingly uses, attempts to use, possesses, obtains, accepts or receives any such visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration card or other document prescribed by statute or regulation for entry into or as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the Philippines or elsewhere, knowing it to be forged, counterfeited, altered or falsely made, or to have been procured by means of any false claim or statement, or to have been otherwise procured by fraud or unlawfully obtained: *Provided,* That the use of forged, counterfeited, altered or falsely made visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration card or other entry document shall be *prima facie* evidence of knowledge; or

(3) Knowingly possesses any blank permit or engraves, sells, brings into the Philippines, or has the control or possession in any plate in the likeness of a plate designed for the printing of permits, or makes any print, photograph or impression in the likeness of any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit or other document required for entry into the Philippines or elsewhere, or has the possession of a distinctive paper which has been adopted by the DFA for the printing of such visas, permits or other documents: *Provided,* That the person who forges, counterfeits, alters or falsely makes any immigrant or nonimmigrant visa, permit, border crossing card, alien registration card or other entry document shall be punished by a fine of not less than Sixty thousand pesos (Php60,000.00) but not more than One hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than fifteen (15) years for each visa or entry document.

The fines and penalties provided for under this section shall be imposed in their maximum when said acts are committed by a syndicate or in large scale operation. Any unlawful act under this section is committed by a syndicate if carried out by a group of three (3) or more persons conspiring and confederating with one another. Such acts are committed in large scale if committed against three (3) or more persons individually or as a group.

**SEC. 22. *Suspension or Revocation of Accreditation.*** – Travel or recruitment agencies and other passport-related service providers are allowed the privilege to transact business with the DFA on the basis of trust and confidence. For the exercise of this privilege, the passport service providers shall be required to secure accreditation from the DFA.

Any travel or recruitment agency and other passport service providers that violate any provision of this Act shall have their accreditation suspended or revoked in accordance with

1 the schedule of administrative penalties to be formulated by the DFA. Any such suspension  
2 or revocation of accreditation shall be without prejudice to civil or criminal sanctions against  
3 the travel or recruitment agency and other passport service provider, their officers, agents and  
4 employees.

5 The submission of spurious, forged or falsified documents supporting a passport  
6 application by any duly accredited travel or recruitment agency or other passport service  
7 provider shall be *prima facie* evidence that the said travel or recruitment agency or other  
8 passport service provider is the author of such forgery or falsification: *Provided*, That the  
9 spurious, forged or falsified document submitted was secured by the travel or recruitment  
10 agency or other relevant passport service provider on behalf of its client.

11  
12 **SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary shall issue the  
13 necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within  
14 ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act without extension or delay.

15  
16 **SEC. 24. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 8239 is hereby repealed. All other laws,  
17 decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this  
18 Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

19  
20 **SEC. 25. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared  
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force  
22 and effect.

23  
24 **SEC. 26. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
25 the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

