



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2063

Introduced by Honorable MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF PASSPORTS,  
AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996,"  
FOR THE PURPOSE THEREOF**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution provides, "*The liberty of abode and of changing the same within the limits prescribed by law shall not be impaired except upon lawful order of the court. 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.*" (Article III, Section 6)

We are all familiar with the traffic problem plaguing Metro Manila. It saps away not only money through gas consumption and other expenses, but it also drains our very precious time. This problem is projected to be solved many years in the future. But now, we have the chance to fix up another type of traffic problem - the long lines, particularly in the passport application process.

Most of us have experienced the lengthy queues for availing government services. It has proven itself to be extremely time consuming, as it takes half, whole or even more than a day to finish the process. This is inimical to the productivity of the people, aside from it being a great hassle to them.

If we increase the duration of the passports' validity, this can decrease the volume of people applying for renewal. By extending the duration of passport validity, the frequency of applying will be lessened. Hence, the long lines at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) offices will be reduced.

The proposed measure will help unburden the people, especially those who are travelling abroad to work.

This bill seeks to amend Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, in order to increase the duration of passport validity.

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



MARK A. VILLAR



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

**SECTION 1.** Section 10 of 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. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of  
the provisions of this Act.

**SEC 3. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and  
regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC 4. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,