

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2340**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	02 AUG 2016
TIME:	6:10 PM
BY:	
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT FROM FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239 ALSO KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Indispensability of Philippine Passport. The Philippine Passport is a travel document and a primary national identity document to all Filipino citizens. It is the principal document with a dual purpose that is a) to serve as a certification containing the description and other personal circumstances of its bearer, issued for direct travel to and from the Philippines, and, a request from the Philippine government to other governments allow the bearer thereof to pass safely and freely, and in case of need to afford his/her all lawful aid and protection.

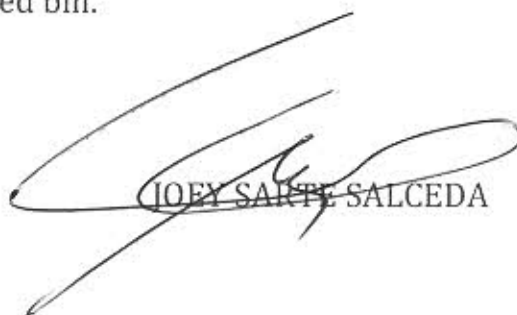
OFWs as Passport Holders. The Passport is an indispensable document in exercising the right to travel. Every year hundreds of thousands of Filipinos travel in different parts of the globe either for leisure, business or work. A substantial portion of these travelers are the millions of Overseas Filipino Workers who frequently leave and enter the country every year. These OFWs dubbed as the "Bagong Bayani" eke out a living abroad, away from their love ones and send in billions of remittances, around 61% of the country's gross domestic product, to support their families.

The five (5) year validity under RA 8239 Deemed Too Short. With the exception of the rich and the middle class who travel mostly for leisure and

business, majority of applicants for renewal of passport are OFWs. These OFWs, who are mostly employed in menial jobs, are forced to shell out considerable portion of their earnings to spend for the periodic renewal of their passports aside from other incidental expenses appertaining to the renewal process, such as travel expense, food allowance etc.

Moreover, the number of new passport applicants and renewal applicants as seen in the long queues in the Department of Foreign Affairs and its satellite offices is an unmistakable proof on the huge number of those availing of these procedures and the considerable administrative cost that DFA personnel have to contend with to service these applicants.

By extending the validity of the Philippine Passport from five (5) to ten (10) years and for the said purpose amending the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, we are giving flesh to President Duterte's pledge during his first SONA to improve basic social services. In more practical terms, the validity extension will give all Filipino passport holders, especially the OFWs, some financial relief and physical convenience by decreasing the cost of renewing passport and the inconvenience of staying in long queues for passport renewals. Additionally, the measure will allow administrative respite to the concerned agencies. Hence, this proposed bill.



JOEY SALCEDA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2340**

Introduced by Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT FROM FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239 ALSO KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in congress Assembled

Sec. 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 **Ten (10) years**: Provided, however, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than **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. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

Sec. 3. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of other provisions hereof.

Sec. 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.