

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2682

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by: Representative Raneo E. Abu
2nd District, Batangas

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS FROM FIVE
(5) TO TEN YEARS (10) BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, THE
PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996**

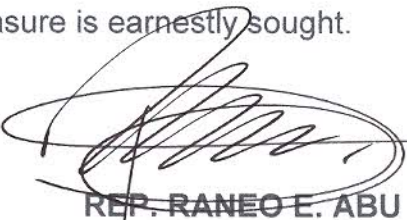
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is provided that the right to travel shall not be "impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law." As this constitutional right to travel is inviolable, any citizen of the Philippines is entitled to be issued a Philippine Passport, which is both a travel and a primary national identity document, by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Philippine Diplomatic missions abroad. Accordingly to enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of said right to travel of every Filipino, Republic Act No. 8239, or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 was enacted. Section 10 of this Philippine Passport Law prescribes that passports shall be valid for a period of five (5) years.

However, considering the current situations being forced by every Filipino travel in securing a passport, particularly the inconveniences being experienced by our Migrant Filipino Workers, a five (5)- year passport validity is rather too short given the tedious process and cost it requires to obtain or renew a passport. In this regard, increasing the passport validity will, in effect, lessen the frequency volume of applications for renewal, and will contribute in reducing, if not eliminating the long queues at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

This bill, therefore, seeks to enhance the Filipinos' unimpaired exercise of their constitutional right to travel by increasing the validity of regular passports issued from five (5) years to ten (10) years.

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


REP. RANEO E. ABU

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2682

Introduced by Representative RANEO E. ABU
2nd District, Batangas

AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT FROM FIVE
(5) YEARS TO TEN (10) YEARS BY AMENDING SECTION 10 OF 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 amend 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. All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, letters of instruction, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby 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,