HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 5687

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Section 10 of Republic Act (RA) No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act, by extending the validity of Philippine Passport from five (5) to ten (10) years.

A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that authenticates the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid Philippine passport is require to enable a Filipino citizen to enter and leave foreign countries. RA 8239 was enacted pursuant to the people's constitutional right to travel. Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue passport or any travel document to any citizen of the Philippines who complies with the requirements of the said Act. Extending the validity of Philippine passports from five (5) to ten (10) years, will mean lesser expense for the holder of such passport.

Moreover, we will be at par with some advanced countries in Asia, United States and other European Union countries which provide for longer passport validity. This action will also contribute to the promotion of the tourism industry and complements the current efforts of many nations towards globalization.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT FROM FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHTY TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY NINE, OTHERWISE 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:

SECTION 1. Section 10 Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 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."

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,