

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3435

Introduced by **HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, was enacted pursuant to the people's constitutional right to travel. Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue passports or other travel documents to any of its citizens who comply with the requirements of said Act.

It is the policy of the State to prescribe only minimum requirements for the application and issuance of passports and other travel documents to enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of the people's constitutional right to travel. For this reason, there is a need to amend the existing Act in order to simplify the passport documentation requirements and application process of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

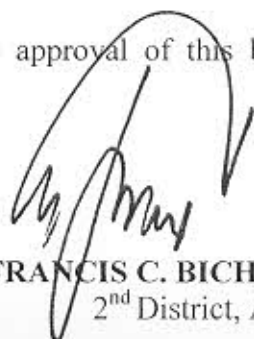
This bill seeks to amend the provisions relating to the requirements of issuance of passports and provides additional grounds for its amendment, suspension and revocation.

The proposed measure also provides an option for applicants to acquire a Philippine passport with a five-year (5) or ten-year validity. It also proposes for the allocation of an amount equivalent to ten (10%) of the consular income to the Building Fund for the purpose of renovating deteriorating government-owned chanceries and residencies of Phil. Embassies, consulates and missions abroad, amortization of acquired chanceries and buildings of the Department of Foreign Affairs and acquisition of new properties abroad as well as acquisition of official vehicles.

This bill also proposes to amend the provision on the *Passport Revolving Fund* which may be utilized by the DFA for the improvement of *all* its passporting and consular offices in the Philippines.

In addition, the bill addresses the proliferation of fake passports by providing more severe penalties against the perpetrators of this type of fraud.

It is on the basis of the foregoing consideration that the approval of this bill is urgently sought.


AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA
2nd District, Albay

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House Bill No. 3435

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, 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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine
2 Passport Act of 1996" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.-The people's constitutional right to travel is inviolable.
4 Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue passportS **USING TAMPER PROOF AND**
5 **LATEST DATA MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY AS MUCH AS PRACTICABLE** or
6 any travel document to any citizen of the Philippines or individual who complies with the
7 requirement of this Act. The right to travel may be impaired only when national security, public
8 safety, or public health requires. To enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of this right,
9 only minimum requirements for the application and issuance of passports and other travel
10 documents shall be prescribed. Action on such application and the issuance shall be expedited."

11 SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 "SEC. 5. *Requirements for the Issuance of Passport.* - No passport shall be
13 issued to an applicant unless the Secretary or his duly authorized representative is satisfied that
14 the applicant is a Filipino citizen who has complied with the following requirements:

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

17 [b.] The birth certificate duly issued or authenticated by the Office of the Civil Registrar
18 General: *Provided, however,* That if the birth of the applicant has not been registered yet, or if his
19 birth certificate is destroyed, damaged, or not available due to other causes, he shall apply for
20 delayed registration of his birth with the Office of the Civil Registrar General which shall issue
21 to said applicant a certification of pending application for delayed registration of birth attaching
22 thereto a copy of an accomplished certificate of live birth. Such certification and the

1 accomplished certificate of live birth shall be sufficient to support an application for passport in
2 addition to other papers which the Department may require from the applicant;]

3 **(B) THE APPLICANT'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN SECURITY PAPER ISSUED**
4 **BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)/OFFICE OF THE CIVIL**
5 **REGISTRAR GENERAL OR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY (CTC) OF BIRTH**
6 **CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR DULY**
7 **AUTHENTICATED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE**
8 **CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL: PROVIDED, THAT IF THE BIRTH OF THE**
9 **APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN REGISTERED YET, OR IF HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE**
10 **IS DESTROYED, DAMAGED, OR NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO OTHER CAUSES, HE**
11 **SHALL APPLY FOR DELAYED REGISTRATION OF HIS BIRTH WITH THE LOCAL**
12 **CIVIL REGISTRAR WHERE HE WAS BORN WHICH SHALL ISSUE TO SAID**
13 **APPLICANT A CERTIFICATION OF PENDING APPLICATION FOR DELAYED**
14 **REGISTRATION OF BIRTH ATTACHING THERETO A COPY OF AN**
15 **ACCOMPLISHED CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH. SUCH CERTIFICATION AND**
16 **THE ACCOMPLISHED CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH SHALL BE SUFFICIENT TO**
17 **SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR PASSPORT IN ADDITION TO OTHER PAPERS**
18 **WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE FROM THE APPLICANT;**

19 [(c.) In the absence of a birth certificate, a baptismal certificate for those who are
20 members of a Christian religious organization or similar or equivalent certificate issued by a non-
21 Christian religious group, attesting to the applicant's having been admitted to such religious
22 group or sect at an early age and where it is indicated that the applicant is a Filipino citizen,
23 which should be accompanied by a joint affidavit by two (2) persons who have personal
24 knowledge of the applicant and of such age as to credibly state the applicant's date and place of
25 birth, citizenship, and names of parents: *Provided*, That Filipinos who do not believe in any
26 religion and whose parents for any reason failed to have the said applicant baptized shall be
27 exempted from the baptismal certificate requirement: *Provided, further*, That in lieu thereof, the
28 applicant shall execute an affidavit to that effect duly corroborated by affidavit of at least two (2)
29 persons of good reputation who personally know such fact;]

30 **(C) A MARRIED WOMAN WHO OPTS TO ADOPT THE SURNAME OF HER**
31 **HUSBAND MUST PRESENT A LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY COPY OF HER**
32 **MARRIAGE CONTRACT DULY AUTHENTICATED BY THE NATIONAL**
33 **STATISTICS OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL: PROVIDED,**
34 **THAT A MARRIED WOMAN WHO IS WIDOWED, DIVORCED IN ACCORDANCE**
35 **WITH ARTICLE 26 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS AMENDED BY**
36 **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF**
37 **THE PHILIPPINES OF 1988, OR WHOSE MARRIAGE IS ANNULLED OR**
38 **DECLARED BY A COURT OF LAW AS VOID, AND WHO OPTS TO REVERT TO**
39 **THE USE OF HER MAIDEN NAME MUST PRESENT THE DEATH CERTIFICATE**
40 **OF HER SPOUSE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)/OFFICE**
41 **OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL OR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY (CTC) OF**
42 **DEATH CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR DULY**
43 **AUTHENTICATED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE**
44 **CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, OR COPY OF THE DIVORCE DECREE OR COURT**
45 **DECREE OF ANNULMENT DULY REGISTERED BY THE LOCAL CIVIL**
46 **REGISTRAR;**

1 [d.) In case of a woman who is married, separated, divorced or widowed or whose
2 marriage has been annulled or declared by court as void, a copy of the certificate of marriage,
3 court decree of separation, divorce or annulment or certificate of death of the deceased spouse
4 duly issued and authenticated by the Office of the Civil Registrar General: *Provided*, That in case
5 of a divorce decree, annulment or declaration of marriage as void, the woman applicant may
6 revert to the use of her maiden name: *Provided, further*, That such divorce is recognized under
7 existing laws of the Philippines;]

8 **(D) IN THE CASE OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS, A COPY OF THE**
9 **NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE, DULY REGISTERED BY LOCAL CIVIL**
10 **REGISTRAR AND AUTHENTICATED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS**
11 **OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN**
12 **CASE OF DERIVATIVE NATURALIZATION, THE APPLICANT SHALL BE**
13 **REQUIRED TO PRESENT A COPY OF THE NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE OF**
14 **HIS PARENT OR SPOUSE DULY ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE**
15 **(NSO)/OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL OR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**
16 **(CTC) OF NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE LOCAL CIVIL**
17 **REGISTRAR DULY AUTHENTICATED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS**
18 **OFFICE/OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL;**

19 [e.) In the case of naturalized citizens, a certified copy of the naturalization certificate; or
20 a certified naturalization certificate of husband or parent duly issued and authenticated by the
21 Office of the Civil Registrar General if citizenship is claimed through naturalization of spouse or
22 parent;]

23 **(E) APPLICATIONS FILED BY MINOR PASSPORT APPLICANTS MAY BE**
24 **PROCESSED ONLY UPON THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF EITHER PARENT:**
25 ***PROVIDED*, THAT IF A PERSON OTHER THAN THE MINOR'S PARENTS FILES**
26 **THE APPLICATION, A SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DULY EXECUTED BY**
27 **EITHER/BOTH PARENT/S AND A TRAVEL CLEARANCE ISSUED BY THE**
28 **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) MUST BE**
29 **PRESENTED FOR THIS PURPOSE: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT IN CASE OF A**
30 **MINOR DECLARED ABANDONED IN COURT, AN AFFIDAVIT OF CONSENT**
31 **EXECUTED BY THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OR THE DSWD MUST BE PRESENTED;**

32 [f.) For an applicant who has not reached the age of majority, an affidavit of consent from
33 a parent as indicated in the passport application if the minor is traveling with either parent, and a
34 clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, if the minor is traveling with
35 a legal guardian or a person other than a parent;]

36 **(F) IF THE APPLICANT IS FOR ADOPTION BY FOREIGN PARENTS UNDER**
37 **R.A. NO. 8043, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION ACT**
38 **OF 1995," THE APPLICANT SHALL PRESENT THE PLACEMENT AUTHORITY**
39 **ISSUED BY THE INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD (ICAB) AND A**
40 **CERTIFICATION FROM APPROPRIATE AGENCY THAT THE NAMED FOREIGN**
41 **ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE QUALIFIED TO ADOPT UNDER THEIR NATIONAL**
42 **LAW AND THAT THE CHILD TO BE ADOPTED IS ALLOWED TO ENTER FOR**
43 **TRIAL CUSTODY AND RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN THE SAID PLACE ONCE**
44 **ADOPTED;**

1 [g.) If the applicant is an adopted person, the duly certified copy of court order of
2 adoption, together with the original and amended birth certificate duly issued and authenticated
3 by the Office of the Civil Registrar General shall be presented: *Provided*, That in case the
4 adopted person is an infant or a minor or the applicant is for adoption by foreign parents, an
5 authority from the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be required: *Provided*,
6 *further*, That the adopting foreign parents shall also submit a certificate from their embassy or
7 consulate that they are qualified to adopt such infant or minor child;]

8 [h.) (G) In case of discrepancy between the applicant's name in the birth certificate and
9 in any other **PUBLIC OR** private document[s], the former shall prevail over the latter unless by
10 operation of law or through court order, the applicant is permitted to use A name other than what
11 is officially recorded in the [Civil Register] **LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE**; and

12 **(H) IF THE APPLICANT IS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE, A**
13 **TRAVEL AUTHORITY FROM THE APPROPRIATE HEADS OF AGENCIES SHALL**
14 **ONLY BE REQUIRED IF HE IS APPLYING FOR A DIPLOMATIC OR AN OFFICIAL**
15 **PASSPORT.**

16 [“i.) If the applicant is a government employee, the travel authority issued by the head of
17 department, agency or office may be required only if said applicant is applying for an official
18 passport.”]

19 **(I) IN CASE OF THOSE WHO HAVE REACQUIRED THEIR PHILIPPINE**
20 **CITIZENSHIP UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
21 **“CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND REACQUISITION ACT OF 2003”, IN ADDITION**
22 **TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT, THE**
23 **APPLICANT SHALL ALSO PRESENT THE ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED TRUE**
24 **COPIES OF THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND THE IDENTIFICATION**
25 **CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.**

26 **(J) MUSLIM FILIPINOS, TRAVELING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAJ OR UMRAH**
27 **PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA AND WHO ARE UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE**
28 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A REGULAR PASSPORT, MAY BE**
29 **ISSUED A HAJ PASSPORT VALID FOR SEVEN (7) MONTHS AND FOR ONE (1)**
30 **TRIP ONLY UPON COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:**

31 **1. ENDORSEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF MUSLIM AFFAIRS WHICH**
32 **ISSUES A CERTIFICATE OF TRIBAL AFFILIATION AND SIGNS A PERSONAL**
33 **GUARANTEE FORM; AND**

34 **2. JOINT BIRTH AFFIDAVIT EXECUTED BY TWO (2) DISINTERESTED**
35 **PERSONS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BIRTH DETAILS OF THE**
36 **APPLICANTS.**

37 **A HAJ PASSPORT IS NON-RENEWABLE AND MAY NOT BE USED AS A**
38 **BASIS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A REGULAR PASSPORT.”**

39 SEC. 3. Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 **“SEC. 6. *Application.* – A PERSON APPLYING FOR A PASSPORT, EITHER FOR**
41 **THE FIRST TIME OR FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PREVIOUSLY ISSUED**

1 PASSPORT, MUST PRESENT HIMSELF/HERSELF IN PERSON FOR PHOTO AND
2 DATA CAPTURING.

3 THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MAY ASSIST AN APPLICANT WHO IS
4 BELOW THE AGE OF MAJORITY.

5 AN APPLICANT WHO IS ILLITERATE, PHYSICALLY DISABLED OR A
6 SENIOR CITIZEN AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD MAY BE ASSISTED IN
7 HIS/HER APPLICATION FOR A PASSPORT BY A RELATIVE, BY AFFINITY OR
8 CONSANGUINITY, WITHIN THE FOURTH CIVIL DEGREE OR IF HE/SHE HAS
9 NONE, BY ANY PERSON OF HIS CONFIDENCE WHO BELONGS TO THE SAME
10 HOUSEHOLD.

11 AN APPLICANT MAY ALSO BE ASSISTED BY ANY LICENSED TRAVEL OR
12 RECRUITMENT AGENCY DULY ACCREDITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
13 FOREIGN AFFAIRS.”

14 SEC. 4. Section 7 (a) and (b) of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 “SEC. 7. *Types of Passports.* - The Secretary or the authorized representative or
16 consular officer may issue the following types of passports:

17 a.) Diplomatic [passport] **PASSPORTS** [for persons imbued] **ARE ISSUED TO**
18 **PERSONS** with diplomatic status or are on A diplomatic mission such as:

19 1. The President and former Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines;

20 2. The Vice-President and former Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines;

21 3. The **INCUMBENT** Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

22 4. The **INCUMBENT** Chief Justice of the Supreme Court **AND INCUMBENT**
23 **ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE PRESIDING JUSTICE**
24 **OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, THE PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE**
25 **SANDIGANBAYAN AND THE PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF TAX**
26 **APPEALS;**

27 5. The [Cabinet Secretaries,] **INCUMBENT SECRETARY**, [and the] Undersecretaries
28 and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs;

29 **6. INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS;**

30 7. [6. Ambassadors, Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career diplomatic service;
31 Attaches, and members of their families] **THE INCUMBENT SECRETARIES OF ALL**
32 **OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH; THE SECRETARY**
33 **GENERAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SECRETARY OF**
34 **THE SENATE;**

35 **8** [7. Members of the Congress when on official mission abroad or as delegates to
36 international conferences] **AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND**
37 **PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES;**

1 9. [8. The Governor of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* and delegates to international or
2 regional conferences when on official mission or accorded full powers by the President; and]
3 **CHIEFS OF MISSION, FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF ALL RANKS IN THE**
4 **CAREER DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, INCLUDING DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT OF**
5 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS ATTACHES AND DESIGNATED ATTACHES FROM**
6 **ATTACHED AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT;**

7 10. [9. Spouses and unmarried minor children of the above-mentioned officials when
8 accompanying or following to join them in an official mission abroad.] **FORMER**
9 **AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE**
10 **REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS**
11 **WITH THE RANK OF CHIEFS OF MISSION;**

12 11. **THE INCUMBENT GOVERNOR OF THE *BANGKO SENTRAL NG***
13 ***PILIPINAS*;**

14 12. **OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL**
15 **CONFERENCES ACCORDED FULL POWERS BY THE PRESIDENT; AND**

16 13. **SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING UNMARRIED**
17 **CHILDREN WHO ARE OF AGE BUT DEPENDENT ON THE INCUMBENT**
18 **OFFICIALS MENTIONED ABOVE FOR SUPPORT, WHEN ACCOMPANYING OR**
19 **FOLLOWING THE AFOREMENTIONED OFFICIALS ON BUSINESS.**

20 The President of the Philippines [and] **OR** the Secretary of the Department of Foreign
21 Affairs may grant diplomatic passports to officials and persons other than those enumerated
22 herein who are on official mission abroad **OR ARE GRANTED FULL POWERS BY THE**
23 **PRESIDENT.”**

24 “b.) Official [Passport] **PASSPORTS** [to be] **ARE** issued to all government officials
25 and employees on official trip abroad but who are not on a diplomatic mission [or delegates to
26 international or regional conferences] or have not been accorded diplomatic status such as:

27 1. **INCUMBENT** Undersecretaries [and], Assistant Secretaries of the Cabinet other than
28 the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Associate Justices **OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** and
29 other members of the Judiciary [,] [members of the Congress] and all other government officials
30 and employees traveling on [official business and] official time;

31 2. [Staff officers and employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs assigned to
32 diplomatic and consular posts and officers and representatives of other government departments
33 and agencies assigned abroad] **PAST SENATE PRESIDENTS AND SPEAKERS OF THE**
34 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;**

35 3. [Persons in the domestic service and household members of officials assigned to
36 diplomatic or consular posts] **RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICES AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES**
37 **OF THE SUPREME COURT;**

38 4. [Spouses and unmarried minor children of the officials mentioned above when
39 accompanying or following to join them.] **STAFF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE**
40 **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSIGNED TO DIPLOMATIC OR**

1 **CONSULAR POSTS AND OFFICES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER**
2 **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ASSIGNED ABROAD;"**

3 **5. PERSONS IN THE DOMESTIC SERVICE AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS OF**
4 **OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR POSTS NOT**
5 **EXCEEDING TWO (2); AND**

6 **6. SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING UNMARRIED CHILDREN**
7 **WHO ARE OF AGE BUT DEPENDENT ON THE INCUMBENT OFFICIALS**
8 **MENTIONED ABOVE FOR SUPPORT, WHEN ACCOMPANYING OR FOLLOWING**
9 **TO JOIN THEM."**

10 SEC. 5. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 "SEC. 8. *Grounds for Denial, Cancellation or Restrictions.* - The application for A
12 passport may be denied, cancelled or restricted only on the following grounds:

13 a.) Denial of Passport

14 1. [On orders of the court, after due notice and hearing, to hold the departure of an
15 applicant because of a pending criminal case] **APPLICANT'S FAILURE TO PRESENT**
16 **DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT THE PASSPORT APPLICATION;**

17 2. [When so requested by the natural or legal guardian, if the applicant is a minor]
18 **VIOLATION BY THE APPLICANT OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC**
19 **ACT NO. 8239, AS AMENDED;**

20 3. [When the applicant has been found to have violated any of the provisions of this Act]
21 **ON ORDERS OF THE COURT, AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING, TO**
22 **WITHHOLD THE PROCESSING OF A PASSPORT;**

23 4. **WHEN THE APPLICANT IS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE, AS MAY BE**
24 **DETERMINED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION;**

25 5. **WHEN THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN CONVICTED BY FINAL JUDGMENT**
26 **OF A CRIMINAL OFFENSE: PROVIDED, HE BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR**
27 **A NEW PASSPORT AFTER GRANT OF PROBATION, SERVICE OF SENTENCE,**
28 **GRANT OF CONDITIONAL OR ABSOLUTE PARDON, OR ISSUANCE OF AN**
29 **AMNESTY;**

30 6. [Such other disqualification under existing laws.] **WHEN SO REQUESTED BY**
31 **THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, IF THE APPLICANT IS A MINOR;**

32 7. **UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE SECRETARY WHEN HE DEEMS IT**
33 **NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR PUBLIC SAFETY;**

34 8. **CANCELLATION OF APPLICANT'S PASSPORT UNDER SECTION 8 (b)**
35 **HEREOF; AND**

36 9. **SUCH OTHER DISQUALIFICATIONS UNDER EXISTING LAWS.**

1 b.) Cancellation **OF PASSPORT**

2 1. When the holder is a fugitive from justice, **AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY A**
3 **COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION;**

4 2. When the holder [has] **HAD** been convicted **BY FINAL JUDGMENT** of a criminal
5 offense: *Provided*, That [the passport may be restored after service of sentence] **HE BECOMES**
6 **ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A NEW PASSPORT AFTER GRANT OF PROBATION,**
7 **SERVICE OF SENTENCE, GRANT OF CONDITIONAL OR ABSOLUTE PARDON,**
8 **OR ISSUANCE OF AN AMNESTY; [or]**

9 3. [When a passport was acquired fraudulently or tampered with.] **UPON FINDING BY**
10 **THE SECRETARY OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR CONSULAR**
11 **OFFICER OR UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE**
12 **BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION THAT A PASSPORT HAS BEEN ACQUIRED**
13 **THROUGH FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION OR HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH**
14 **SUBSEQUENT TO ITS RELEASE OR ISSUANCE; OR**

15 4. **UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE SECRETARY WHEN HE DEEMS IT**
16 **NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR PUBLIC SAFETY.**

17 c.) **ISSUANCE OF Restricted PASSPORTS**

18 1. When the country of destination is in a state of political instability **AND** [which] could
19 pose a danger to the Filipino traveler;

20 2. When [diplomatic ties have been fractured or severed] **THE COUNTRY OF**
21 **DESTINATION HAD SEVERED DIPLOMATIC TIES** with the Philippines;

22 3. When the country of destination is subject to travel restriction by government policy,
23 enforcement [of] action by the United Nations, or **IS** in a state of war [.]”

24 4. **WHEN TRAVEL HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT**
25 **JURISDICTION OR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO A SPECIFIED**
26 **DESTINATION ONLY; AND**

27 5. **WHEN A PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATION OF IDENTITY AND**
28 **PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP HAS BEEN MADE IN FAVOR OF THE APPLICANT**
29 **WHO IS UNABLE TO IMMEDIATELY COMPLY WITH DOCUMENTARY**
30 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PHILIPPINE PASSPORT, AND THE**
31 **TRAVEL IS FOR URGENT MEDICAL REASONS, AS CERTIFIED BY A PHYSICIAN,**
32 **OR TO ATTEND TO A SERIOUSLY ILL IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WITHIN**
33 **THE SECOND DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY, OR WHEN THE**
34 **PASSPORT IS NECESSARY TO LEGITIMIZE THE STATUS OF THE APPLICANT IN**
35 **A FOREIGN COUNTRY OR FOR OTHER COMPELLING REASONS AS MAY BE**
36 **DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE OR CONSULAR**
37 **OFFICER.”**

SEC. 6. Section 10 of the same Act 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) **OR TEN (10)** years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than five (5) 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.

THE PASSPORT APPLICANT SHALL HAVE THE OPTION TO APPLY FOR A FIVE-YEAR (5) OR A TEN-YEAR (10) PASSPORT AND SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PASSPORT FEES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.”

SEC. 7. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 14. *Amendments.* - A passport may be amended at the request of the holder for any [lawful purpose, but such amendment should be approved by the Secretary or his duly authorized diplomatic or consular officers.] **OF THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

A) AMENDMENTS OF A WOMAN’S NAME DUE TO MARRIAGE; OR

B) AMENDMENT OF A WOMAN’S NAME DUE TO DEATH OF SPOUSE, ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE OR ISSUANCE OF A DIVORCE DECREE GRANTED BY A FOREIGN COURT CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 26 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 1988.

AMENDMENT MAY NOT BE MADE DUE TO ERROR IN SCRIPTING OR DISCREPANCY IN THE PERSONAL DATA OF THE HOLDER.

C) AMENDMENT BY ORDER OF A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION AND/OR PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9048.

[“Diplomatic and official passports shall be submitted for revalidation before each departure of the holder.”]

SEC. 8. Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 16. *Fees.* - Reasonable fees shall be collected for the processing, issuance, [extension] amendment or replacement of a lost passport and the issuance of a Travel Document as may be determined by the Department: [*Provided, however,* That any fee shall not be increased more than once every three (3) years].

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESCRIBE THE NECESSARY PASSPORT FEES FOR SIXTY-PAGE (60-PAGE) AND ONE HUNDRED-PAGE (100-PAGE) PASSPORTS.”

TEN PERCENT (10%) OF SUCH FEES AND CHARGES, INCLUDING OTHER INCOME GENERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSTITUTE SPECIAL TRUST FUND AND SHALL BE CALLED THE “BUILDING FUND.” THE SAME SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN ANY AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORY

1 BANK, AND ALL INTERESTS SHALL ACCRUE THEREFROM SHALL FORM PART
2 OF THE SAME FUND FOR THE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

3 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND
4 REGULATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, TEN PERCENT (10%) OF INCOME
5 GENERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT FROM PASSPORT PROCESSING, ISSUANCE,
6 EXTENSION, AMENDMENT OR REPLACEMENT AND OTHER CHARGES, AS
7 WELL AS FROM VISA FEES, NOTARIAL FEES AND AUTHENTICATION, VESSEL
8 AND SEAMEN, SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND MAY BE
9 DISBURSED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUILDING COMMITTEE AS APPROVED BY
10 THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY FOR (i) RENOVATION OF DETERIORATING
11 GOVERNMENT-OWNED CONSULAR OFFICES AND CHANCERIES/ RESIDENCES,
12 AND; (ii) ACQUISITION OF NEW PROPERTIES ABROAD FOR CHANCERIES/
13 RESIDENCES OF THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE.

14 IF FOR REASON OF CONTROL, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT BE ABLE
15 TO PURSUE A SPECIFIC PROJECT FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN
16 APPROPRIATED AND, ALLOCATED UNDER ITS APPROVED PROGRAM OF
17 PROPERTY ACQUISITION (NEW PROPERTIES ABROAD FOR CHANCERIES/
18 RESIDENCES) AND RENOVATION OF DETERIORATING GOVERNMENT-OWNED
19 CONSULAR OFFICES AND CHANCERIES/ RESIDENCES, THE BUILDING
20 COMMITTEE AND THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE
21 OF SAID FUNDS FOR THE NEXT PRIORITY PROJECT AS REFLECTED IN THE
22 SAID PROGRAM FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF
23 THE DEPARTMENT.

24 SEC. 9. Section 17 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 "SEC. 17. *Passport Revolving Fund.* The Department may charge a **REASONABLE**
26 service fee [of not more than Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P250)] for such service rendered to
27 applicants relating to the processing and issuance of passports requiring special consideration,
28 waiver or issuance beyond regular office hours. The service fees received by the Department
29 under this section shall constitute a revolving fund to be called the "Passport Revolving Fund"
30 which may be utilized by the Department for the improvement of its passporting and consular
31 services **IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH SHALL COVER ALL CONSULAR OFFICES**
32 **IN METRO MANILA AND OTHER REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES** [and other
33 Department services] except travel and [transportation] **REPRESENTATION** allowances and
34 expenses.

35 The setting up, use and disbursement of funds shall be subject to [review,] accounting and
36 auditing [rules and] regulations [of the Commission on Audit and will be subject to an annual
37 review by Congress, but the Secretary will submit a report on the disbursement of the fund every
38 six (6) months to both the Senate and the House Committees on Foreign Relations]. **THE**
39 **SECRETARY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE FUND**
40 **EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS TO BOTH THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN**
41 **RELATIONS AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR**
42 **REVIEW.**

SEC. 10. Section 19, subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the same Act are hereby amended and a new subsection to be designated as subsection (F) is hereby added to read as follows:

“SEC. 19. *Offenses and Penalties.* - A passport, being a proclamation of [the] citizenship of a Filipino, [is a document that] is superior to all other [official] documents [..], [As such] **AND AS SUCH**, [it] should be accorded the highest respect by its holder [that to do damage to its integrity and validity is a serious crime that should be penalized accordingly]. **ANY ACT PREJUDICIAL TO ITS INTEGRITY IS A GRAVE CRIME OF SECURITY AGAINST THE STATE AND SHOULD BE PENALIZED ACCORDINGLY:**

a.) *Offenses Relating to Issuance[s]: 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 (P15,000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [six (6)] **TWELVE (12)** years; or

2. Being a diplomatic or consular official authorized to grant, issue, amend or verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, amends 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 (P15,000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** but not more than [six (6)] **TWELVE (12)** years and upon conviction, be **PERPETUALLY** disqualified from holding [appointive] public office;

3. Being a diplomatic or consular officer knowingly and willfully grants and issues to, amends or certifies to the authenticity of any passport or travel document for any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly and willfully issues more than one passport to any person except as provided for in this Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [six (6)] **TWELVE (12)** years and upon conviction, be **PERPETUALLY** disqualified from holding [appointive] public office[.];

4. **ACTING OR CLAIMING TO ACT IN ANY CAPACITY, WITH THE INTENTION TO PROFIT THEREBY, INTERCEPTS A PERSON PROCEEDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR ANY OF ITS REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT, AND PERSUADES, ENTICES, ENCOURAGES, OR MISLEADS SUCH APPLICANT TO COURSE HIS/HER APPLICATION THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON OR AGENCY OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OR ITS PERSONNEL ON THE PRETEXT OF FACILITATING ITS APPROVAL OR ISSUANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS NOR 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, either for his own use or the use of another, contrary to this Act or rules and regulations prescribed pursuant hereto shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) and imprisonment of not less than [three (3) years] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [ten (10)] **TWELVE (12)** years; or

2. Uses or attempts to use any passport which was secured in any way by reason of any false statements, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (P15, 000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60, 000) and imprisonment of not less than [three (3) years] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY**, but not more than [ten (10)] **TWELVE (12)** years [; or].

3. Travel and recruitment agencies whose **OFFICERS**, agents, liaison officers or representatives are convicted of offenses relating to false statements shall in addition to the fines and penalties abovementioned have their license revoked with all deposits, escrow accounts or guarantee funds deposited or made as a requirement of their business forfeited in favor of the government [without prejudice to the officials of the branch office or of the agency being charged as accessories to the offense and upon conviction barred from engaging in the travel or recruitment agency business]. **IN THE EVENT THAT AN OFFICER OF THE TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY IS CONVICTED, HE 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, **DEPARTMENT 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 Sixty thousand pesos (P60, 000) nor more than One Hundred Fifty thousand pesos (P150, 000) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years nor more than fifteen (15) years; 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 therein prescribed shall be punished by a fine of not less than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) nor more than One hundred and fifty thousand pesos (P150,000) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years nor more than fifteen (15) years: *Provided, however,* That officers of corporations, agencies or entities licensed in the travel and recruitment industry would be held similarly liable as their agents, liaison officers or representatives: *Provided, finally,* That forgeries of five or more passports or travel documents would be considered as massive forgery tantamount to national sabotage and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Two hundred and fifty thousand pesos (P250,000) nor more than One Million pesos (P1,000,000) and imprisonment of not less than seven (7) years nor more than seventeen (17) years.

d.) *Offenses Relating to Improper Use: Penalties.* - 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 documents 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, [for use by another or other than the person for whose use it was originally issued or designed; or] **OTHER THAN THAT IN WHOSE NAME AND FOR WHOSE USE IT WAS ISSUED, DESIGNED OR INTENDED, EXCEPT WHEN THE APPLICANT IS A MINOR, A SENIOR CITIZEN OVER SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD OR PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY INCAPACITATED AND THE PASSPORT IS RELEASED TO HIS PARENT, GUARDIAN OR IMMEDIATE RELATIVE: PROVIDED, THAT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS OR THE HEAD OF THE CONSULAR SECTION OF ANY EMBASSY OR THE CONSUL GENERAL OF A CONSULATE MAY, UPON HIS DISCRETION RELEASE THE PASSPORT TO A THIRD PARTY UPON THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE APPLICANT; OR**

4. Defaces or destroys a Philippine passport, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) nor more than One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) years nor more than fifteen (15) years.

TRAVEL AND RECRUITMENT AGENCIES WHOSE OFFICERS, AGENTS, LIAISON OFFICERS OR REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONVICTED OF OFFENSES RELATING TO IMPROPER USE SHALL BE BARRED FROM ENGAGING IN THE TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY BUSINESS.

e.) *Offenses Relating to Multiple Possession: Penalties.*- No person or individual may hold more than one valid passport, except as provided for in Section 7 hereof, and any individual who possesses more than one unexpired passport shall, for every unexpired passport found in his possession, be punished by a fine of not less Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) nor more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** [but not] **NOR** more than [six (6)] **TWELVE (12) years:** *Provided, That the maximum fine and imprisonment shall be imposed by the court if he attempts to use or actually uses an unexpired passport which is not in his name.*

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

F.) OFFENSES RELATING TO FORGERY OF VISAS AND ENTRY DOCUMENTS: PENALTIES. - 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

1 AUTHORIZED STAY OR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ELSEWHERE,
2 OR UTTERS, USES, ATTEMPTS TO USE, POSSESSES, OBTAINS, ACCEPTS, OR
3 RECEIVES ANY SUCH VISA, PERMIT, BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN
4 REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARD, OR OTHER DOCUMENT PRESCRIBED BY
5 STATUTE OR REGULATION FOR ENTRY INTO OR AS EVIDENCE OF
6 AUTHORIZED STAY OR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ELSEWHERE,
7 KNOWING IT TO BE FORGED, COUNTERFEITED, ALTERED, OR FALSELY
8 MADE, OR TO HAVE BEEN PROCURED BY MEANS OF ANY FALSE CLAIM OR
9 STATEMENT, OR TO HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE PROCURED BY FRAUD OR
10 UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE USE OF FORGED,
11 COUNTERFEITED, ALTERED, OR FALSELY MADE VISA, PERMIT, BORDER
12 CROSSING CARD, ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD, OR OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENT
13 SHALL BE *PRIMA FACIE* EVIDENCE OF KNOWLEDGE; OR

14 2. EXCEPT UNDER DIRECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
15 AFFAIRS, OR OTHER PROPER OFFICER, KNOWINGLY POSSESSES ANY BLANK
16 PERMIT, OR ENGRAVES, SELLS, BRINGS INTO THE PHILIPPINES, OR HAS IN
17 HIS CONTROL OR POSSESSION IN ANY PLATE IN THE LIKENESS OF A PLATE
18 DESIGNED FOR THE PRINTING OF PERMITS, OR MAKES ANY PRINT,
19 PHOTOGRAPH, OR IMPRESSION IN THE LIKENESS OF ANY IMMIGRANT OR
20 NONIMMIGRANT VISA, PERMIT OR OTHER DOCUMENT REQUIRED FOR
21 ENTRY INTO THE PHILIPPINES OR ELSEWHERE, OR HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A
22 DISTINCTIVE PAPER WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
23 FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE PRINTING OF SUCH VISAS, PERMITS, OR
24 DOCUMENTS SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTEEN
25 THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000) NOR MORE THAN SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS (P
26 60,000) AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN THREE (3) YEARS, BUT NOT
27 MORE THAN TEN (10) YEARS: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE PERSON WHO FORGES,
28 COUNTERFEITS, ALTERS, OR FALSELY MAKES ANY IMMIGRANT OR
29 NONIMMIGRANT VISA, PERMIT, BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN
30 REGISTRATION CARD, OR OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENT SHALL BE PUNISHED
31 BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS (P60,000) NOR MORE
32 THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P150,000) AND IMPRISONMENT
33 OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) YEARS NOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN (15) YEARS FOR
34 EACH VISA OR ENTRY DOCUMENT.”

35 SEC. 11. Section 20 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 “SEC. 20. *Suspension/REVOCATION of Accreditation.* - [Any duly accredited travel or
37 recruitment agent or agency which violates the prescription on application for passport under
38 Section 6 hereof shall have such accreditation suspended without prejudice to civil, criminal or
39 administrative sanctions including revocation of its license to operate.] TRAVEL OR
40 RECRUITMENT AGENCIES ARE ALLOWED THE PRIVILEGE TO TRANSACT
41 BUSINESS WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF TRUST AND
42 CONFIDENCE. FOR THE EXERCISE OF THIS PRIVILEGE, TRAVEL AND
43 RECRUITMENT AGENCIES SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SECURE ACCREDITATION
44 FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

45 ANY TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY WHICH VIOLATES ANY
46 PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL HAVE ITS ACCREDITATION SUSPENDED OR
47 REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE

PENALTIES TO BE FORMULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. ANY SUCH
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION SHALL BE WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO CIVIL SERVICE OR CRIMINAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE
AGENCY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES.

The [mere] submission of spurious, forged or falsified documents supporting a passport
application by any duly accredited travel or recruitment agency shall be *prima facie* evidence that
the said travel or recruitment agency is the author of such forgery or falsification" **PROVIDED,**
THAT THE SPURIOUS, FORGED OR FALSIFIED DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IS
SECURED BY THE TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY IN BEHALF OF ITS
CLIENT."

SEC. 12. A new Section 21 is hereby added to read as follows:

**"SEC. 21. JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – A JOINT
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED, COMPOSED
OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
AND SIX (6) OTHER SENATORS DESIGNATED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT, AND
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND SIX
(6) OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: PROVIDED, THAT, OF
THE SIX (6) MEMBERS TO BE DESIGNATED BY EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS,
FOUR (4) SHOULD COME FROM THE MAJORITY AND THE REMAINING (2)
SHOULD COME FROM THE MINORITY.**

**THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE POWER
TO MONITOR, ASSESS AND REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT
PARTICULARLY ON THE DISBURSEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF THE
PASSPORT REVOLVING FUND AND THE BUILDING FUND.**

**THE INITIAL SUM OF TEN MILLION PESOS (PHP 10,000,000.00) SHALL BE
APPROPRIATED TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS JOINT
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THEREAFTER, SUCH AMOUNT AS
MAY BE NECESSARY FOR ITS CONTINUED OPERATION SHALL BE INCLUDED
IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT".**

SEC. 13. Section 21 of the same Act shall be re-numbered as Sec. 22

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or
invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and
regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect immediately following its
publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*, whichever comes
first.

Approved,

