

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5574**



Introduced by: Representative Magnolia Rosa C. Antonino

EXPLANATORY NOTE

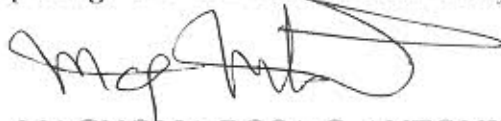
Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996" was enacted into law to enable the people to go anywhere in the world wherever he or she desires to go. However, this law explicitly provides certain classifications or types of passports to be issued to all Filipino citizens depending on one's standing in the government.

For instance, persons imbued with diplomatic status or on diplomatic mission like the President and former Presidents of the Republic of the Philippines, Vice-President and former Vice-Presidents, Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Cabinet Secretaries and Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors, Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career diplomatic service, Attaches and members of their families, Members of Congress when on official mission abroad or as delegates to international conferences, etc. are issued Diplomatic Passport. Government officials on official trip abroad but who are not on a diplomatic mission or delegates to international or regional conferences or have not been accorded diplomatic status are issued Official Passport while a Regular Passport is issued to Filipino citizens who are not eligible or entitled to diplomatic or official passports.

Based on International Convention on Diplomatic Relations, holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports enjoy certain privileges when traveling abroad on diplomatic or official mission as compared to citizens holding regular passports.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to include barangay officials among the government officials to be issued Official Passport that will also entitle them certain privileges or a hassle-free travel abroad.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnolia Rosa C. Antonino', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

MAGNOLIA ROSA C. ANTONINO

Representative

Fourth District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) TO ISSUE OFFICIAL PASSPORT TO BARANGAY OFFICIALS WHEN ON OFFICIAL TRIP ABROAD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 7 PARAGRAPHS (b) and (c) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 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 7 paragraphs (b) and (c) of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

- (a) Diplomatic passport for persons with diplomatic status or on diplomatic mission such as:

XXX XXX XXX

- (b) Official Passport to be issued to all government officials, INCLUDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS, and employees on official trip abroad but who are not on a diplomatic mission or delegates to international or regional conferences or have not been accorded diplomatic status such as:

- (1) Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Cabinet other than the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Associate Justices and other members of the Judiciary, members of the Congress and all other government officials, INCLUDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS, and employees traveling on official business and official time;
 - (2) Staff officers and employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs assigned to diplomatic and consular posts and officers and representatives of other government departments and agencies abroad;
 - (3) Persons in the domestic service and household members of officials assigned to diplomatic or consular posts;
 - (4) Spouses and unmarried minor children of the officials mentioned above when accompanying or following to join them.
- (c) Regular Passport issued to Filipino citizens who are not eligible or entitled to diplomatic or official passports, [including] SUCH AS government officials, INCLUDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS, or employees going abroad for pleasure or other personal reasons. Government officials, INCLUDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS, and employees and members of their families may, during their incumbency in office, hold two passports simultaneously; (1) a regular passport for private travel; (2) a diplomatic or official passport when traveling abroad on diplomatic or official business. The wife and minor children of persons entitled to a diplomatic or official passport shall be issued regular passports, if they are not accompanying or following to join them."

SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, 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,