

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1716



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Apostille Convention, to which the Philippines is a contracting party, is an international treaty that allows the passage of the Apostille Service, where such process facilitates the authentication of public administrative documents. Through the issuance of an Apostille certificate, the “authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted, and where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears”¹ of public documents are deemed verified. Therefore, these essential papers are accounted as legally recognized abroad.

This standardization process offered by the Apostille Service simplifies the bureaucratic process, as it eliminates the need for further authentication by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate General in the foreign country where the document/s is/are to be used. The Apostille Service is thereby mandated to authenticate “court documents, administrative documents (e.g. birth, marriage, and death certificates, medical and health certificates, police records, grants of patents, etc.), notarial acts, and “official certificates which are placed on documents signed by persons in their private capacity.”²

The establishment of an Apostille Service Center in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Tuguegarao Consular Office is a significant step towards improving public service delivery not only in the Cagayan Valley Region, but also in its neighboring regions and provinces.

Presently, Tuguegarao City, as a regional center, hosts universities that cater to foreign students. Considering that these students will return to their country of origin after graduation, there is a need to authenticate their degree documents in accordance with the Apostille Convention.

¹ Hague Conference on Private International Law, Outline of the Apostille Convention, as cited by Pangalangan, E. (n.d.) Apostille Convention in a Nutshell. *UP Law*. Retrieved 30 July 2024 from <https://law.upd.edu.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Apostille-Convention.pdf>

² *Id* at 1.

In a similar way, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the region and nearby provinces also require authenticated documents before departure. With the establishment of the Apostille Service, the processing of their documents will certainly be simplified. Further, this will be cost-effective in the long run as they will no longer be required to travel to Metro Manila to avail of this essential service.

In light of the following considerations, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN APOSTILLE SERVICE AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA)-TUGUEGARAO
CONSULAR OFFICE IN CARIG SUR, TUGUEGARAO CITY,
CAGAYAN

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)-Tuguegarao City Apostille Service Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of State Policy. – It is a declared policy of the State to renounce war as an instrument of national policy, to adopt the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and to adhere to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.

Concomitant with its international obligations, the Philippines became a state-party to the Apostille Convention on Authentication of Documents on May 14, 2019.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Apostille Service in DFA-Tuguegarao City Consular Office. – There shall be an established Apostille Service in the DFA-Tuguegarao City Consular Office to be located in Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. – The initial funding requirements for the establishment and operationalization of the DFA Apostille Service Office in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, any additional funds required for the continuous implementation of this Act will be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act.



SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines. 

Approved,