



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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE BILL NO. 10859



**Introduced by Representatives
ZIAUR-RAHMAN "ZIA" ALONTO ADIONG**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PASSPORT SERVICE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MARAWI CITY, PROVINCE OF
LANAO DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees the right of every Filipino to travel, subject only to limitations provided by law in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health. Consistent with this constitutional guarantee, Republic Act No. 11983, or the "New Philippine Passport Act," declares it a policy of the State to protect the people's right to travel and to ensure the expeditious processing and issuance of passports and other travel documents.

For many residents of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, and nearby communities, however, securing or renewing a passport continues to entail travel outside the city to access the services of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The resulting costs in transportation, accommodation, and lost working hours constitute an additional burden, particularly for students, workers, senior citizens, families, and other applicants who must personally appear for passport processing.

Furthermore the yearly Hajj and Umrah periodically require readily accessible passport services for many of these same citizens.

The need for accessible passport services is particularly significant in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur. Republic Act No. 11983 itself recognizes the circumstances of Muslim Filipinos intending to undertake pilgrimage by directing the DFA to provide appropriate accommodation for their passport applications. Establishing a permanent passport service facility in Marawi City will bring this essential government service closer to communities where such access is especially relevant.

Beyond convenience, the establishment of a DFA Passport Service Satellite Office in Marawi City forms part of the broader effort to ensure that the delivery of national government services keeps pace with the continuing rehabilitation, development, and economic growth of Marawi City and the surrounding areas. Residents should not be compelled to undertake unnecessary travel merely to avail themselves of a fundamental government service that can reasonably be brought closer to them.

This measure therefore seeks to establish a Passport Service Satellite Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Marawi City, which shall provide passport application, renewal, processing, biometric capture, releasing, and other related services. The DFA may likewise provide other consular services through the office when operationally feasible.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ziaur-Rahman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON. ZIAUR-RAHMAN "ZIA" ALONTO ADIONG
First District, Lanao del Sur



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SECTION 1. Establishment of a Passport Service Satellite Office. — There shall be established in Marawi City, Province of Lanao del Sur, a Passport Service Satellite Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), hereinafter referred to as the "Marawi City Passport Office," under the supervision and administrative control of the DFA Office of Consular Affairs.

The DFA shall determine the appropriate location of the Marawi City Passport Office, taking into consideration its accessibility to the public, security, availability of necessary infrastructure, and capacity to accommodate passport applicants.

SECTION 2. Functions and Services. — The Marawi City Passport Office shall provide passporting services in accordance with Republic Act No. 11983, otherwise known as the "New Philippine Passport Act," its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Such services shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) Receiving and processing applications for the issuance and renewal of passports;
- (b) Capturing the biometric and biographic data of passport applicants;
- (c) Processing applications involving lost, damaged, or mutilated passports, subject to existing DFA rules;
- (d) Releasing passports and other travel documents, when applicable;
- (e) Providing assistance and information concerning passport applications and related requirements;
- (f) Providing the special lanes and accommodations required under existing law, including those for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, minors, solo parents, overseas Filipino workers, persons with emergency or exceptional cases, and Muslim Filipinos intending to undertake pilgrimage; and
- (g) Performing such other passporting and consular services as may be authorized by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

SECTION 3. Facilities and Intergovernmental Coordination. — The DFA may coordinate and enter into appropriate agreements with the City Government of Marawi, the Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur, the Bangsamoro Government, and/or other concerned government agencies or instrumentalities for the provision of a suitable site, facilities, utilities, security, logistical assistance, and other support necessary for the establishment and operation of the Marawi City Passport Office.

Any such arrangement shall be without prejudice to the exclusive authority of the DFA over passport issuance, passporting procedures, consular operations, personnel, information systems, and the security and confidentiality of passport data.

SECTION 4. Personnel, Equipment, and Information Systems. — The DFA shall provide the Marawi City Passport Office with adequate qualified personnel, passport processing and biometric equipment, secure information and communications technology systems, and such other facilities and resources as may be necessary for its efficient operation.

All collection, processing, storage, transmission, and protection of personal and biometric data shall comply with Republic Act No. 11983, Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012," and other applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 5. Establishment and Commencement of Operations. — The DFA shall cause the establishment and commencement of operations of the Marawi City Passport Office within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

For this purpose, the DFA shall include the establishment and operation of the Marawi City Passport Office in its organizational, staffing, infrastructure, equipment, and budgetary requirements.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DFA and such other funds as may be available and authorized for the purpose.

Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the continued operation, maintenance, personnel, equipment, and improvement of the Marawi City Passport Office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DFA shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for its effective implementation.

SECTION 8. 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.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.