

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 487

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF
1996"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution states that the right to travel shall not be "impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law." Pursuant to this, Republic Act No. 8239, or the "Philippine Passport Act of 1996" was enacted. Under Section 10 of this Act, the validity specified for regular passports issued is only five (5) years. A five-year passport validity is rather too short given the tedious process and cost it requires to obtain or renew a passport.

This bill, therefore, seeks to enhance the Filipinos' unimpaired exercise of their constitutional right to travel by increasing the validity of regular passports issued from five (5) years to ten (10) years.

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


REP. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Second District, Pampanga

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 10 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 10 of Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Validity.* - Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years: Provided, however, That the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than 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.

SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, letters of instruction, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.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,