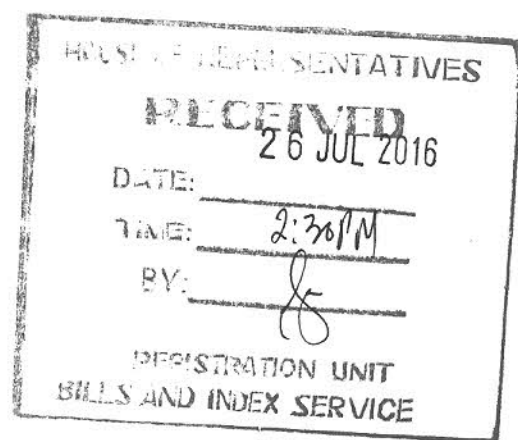


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1894



Introduced by **HON. TEODORO G. MONTORO**

**AN ACT AMENDING THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996 INCREASING THE
VALIDITY OF PASSPORTS FROM FIVE (5) YEARS TO TEN (10) YEARS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Most of the travelling Filipinos, whether on vacation or work, have lamented that the validity of passports seem to be too short at five (5) years. Even Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who regularly travel to various countries complain that their deployment abroad is sometimes affected by the short validity of their passports which are needed in their employment applications or renewals. OFWs are usually obliged to travel to areas where their passports can be renewed with cost and also incur additional expenses in so doing.

The President of the Republic of the Philippines himself stated in several occasions that there is a need to amend the Philippine Passport Act of 1996, particularly on the provision pertaining to passport validity. He stated that because of the short validity of Philippine passports, ordinary Filipinos are forced to apply for passport renewals from time to time thereby experiencing long queues under uncomfortable circumstances.

The 1987 Constitution likewise provides for the protection of the basic rights of Filipinos to travel without hitches. Specifically, Sec. 8 of the 1987 Constitution provides 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. Indeed, passport validity with short period will adversely affect the traveling requirements of Filipinos.

It is for these reasons that there is a need to amend Republic Act No. 8239, particularly, the provision on passport validity.



REP. TEODORO G. MONTORO
AASENSO Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, also known as the “Philippine Passport Act of 1996” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. *Validity* – Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid to a period of ten (10) years: *Provided, however,* that the issuing authority may limit the period of validity to less than ten (10) years in the interest of national security and national economy; *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.

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive and administrative orders or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,