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SENATE
P.S. Res 142

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DELAY OF PASSPORT
PROCESSING RESULTING IN MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FILIPINOS WHO
NEED TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS IMMEDIATELY

WHEREAS, since last year, there have been several complaints against the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), because of the delay in passport application and processing;

WHEREAS, the DFA reportedly receives at least 15,000 applications daily, and it normally takes two months to secure an appointment for passport application;¹

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the DFA claimed that there is a 42,000-passport backlog, which was previously at 100,000;²

WHEREAS, it was reported that the backlog started when the department had technical problems with the passporting system;³

WHEREAS, according to the DFA, the passporting system had been experiencing problems since 2009, when parts started breaking down, resulting in technological obsolescence;⁴

WHEREAS, security checks have also caused further delay, as double checking had been a necessity because of cases of identity fraud;⁵

¹ Kris Reyes, *Starting June 1, no-show passport applicants to face 30-day ban – DFA*. 27 May 2016.

<http://kickerdaily.com/posts/2016/05/starting-june-1-no-show-passport-applicants-to-face-30-day-ban-dfa/>

² *DFA hopes to clear passport backlog in 15 to 20 days, but clarifies it's not blaming BSP*. 14 August 2015.

<http://interaksyon.com/article/116012/passport-backlog-topped-at-100000-now-at-42000-to-be-cleared-in-15-to-20-days--dfa>.

³ *Id* at 2.

⁴ *Id*.

⁵ *Id* at 1.

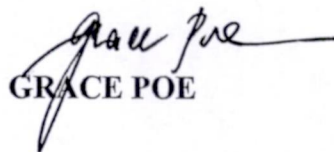
WHEREAS, to address the issue of backlogs, the DFA is not only updating its passporting system, but has also issued an advisory that starting June 1, those who do not show up on their passport appointment date shall be barred from re-applying for a new slot for at least 30 days; statistics show that 47 percent of those who made a passport application appointment do not show up;⁶

WHEREAS, despite these measures taken by the DFA, the office of the author has received numerous complaints from the public, from failure to receive the confirmation code thru e-mail to waiting for about two months to secure an appointment for passport application;

WHEREAS, such delays have resulted in missed opportunities for Filipinos wanting to visit their families abroad; it has also resulted in additional cost and possible threat on life for those seeking immediate medical treatment, and delayed earnings for aspiring overseas Filipino workers who have to wait for several days just to get the most basic document that will allow them to exercise their constitutional right to travel;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged delay of passport processing resulting in missed opportunities for Filipinos who need to travel overseas immediately.

Adopted,


GRACE POE

⁶ *Id.*