



S E N A T E *

S. No. 2001

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
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VILLANUEVA, VILLAR (C.), AND GATCHALIAN AS
AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996”, AS
AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “New Philippine Passport Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Article III, Section 6 of
4 the Constitution provides that the right to travel shall not
5 be impaired except in the interest of national security,
6 public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law.
7 It is the policy of the State to protect the people’s

1 constitutional right to travel while ensuring issuance of
2 passport or any travel document in line with international
3 instruments and using secure passport personalization and
4 data management technologies to enhance and protect the
5 unimpaired exercise of the right to travel. The State shall
6 only prescribe minimum requirements for the application
7 and issuance of passports and other travel documents.

8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

9 (a) *Ambassadors* refer to those who have been
10 appointed as Chiefs of Mission and are currently serving as
11 Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary;

12 (b) *Biographic data* refers to an individual's full
13 name, birthdate, birth place, and sex as recorded in the
14 Certificate of Live Birth, Report of Birth, Certificate of
15 Marriage, Report of Marriage, or Certificate of Foundling;

16 (c) *Biometric data* refers to front facing photograph,
17 fingerprint, iris scan, and/or such other identifiable
18 features of an individual;

19 (d) *Consular offices* (CO) refer to field offices or any
20 offsite office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

1 Office of Consular Affairs located in the Philippines that
2 performs consular and related functions;

3 (e) *Consular Official* refers to a DFA official
4 assigned to the Office of Consular Affairs, DFA Consular
5 Offices in the Philippines or Foreign Service Posts, who is
6 responsible for providing passport and other consular
7 services;

8 (f) *Consular Services* refer to services relating to
9 the exercise of consular functions, such as issuing
10 passports, other travel documents, and visas; acting as
11 notary and civil registrar; and all other related functions
12 and capacities;

13 (g) *Convention on International Civil Aviation* or
14 *Chicago Convention* refers to the Convention which sets
15 out certain principles and arrangements for the
16 development of international civil aviation and
17 establishment of international air transport services. It
18 was signed in Chicago in 1944 and entered into force in
19 1947;

1 (h) *Emergency Travel Document* refers to a
2 document issued by the Philippine Government to
3 travelers in emergency situations where it is not possible
4 to issue a regular passport;

5 (i) *Foundling* refers to a deserted or abandoned
6 child or infant with unknown facts of birth and parentage.
7 This includes a person who has been duly registered as a
8 foundling during his or her infancy or childhood but has
9 reached the age of majority without benefitting from
10 adoption procedures, as provided in Republic Act
11 No. 11767, or the “Foundling Recognition and Protection
12 Act”;

13 (j) *Fugitives from Justice* refer to those who flee
14 under the following circumstances: (1) After conviction by a
15 Philippine court to avoid punishment; or (2) After being
16 charged in a Philippine court to avoid prosecution;

17 (k) *Foreign Service Posts (FSPs)* refer to embassies,
18 missions, consulates general, and other foreign service
19 establishments maintained by the DFA;

1 (l) *International Civil Aviation Organization*
2 (*ICAO*) refers to the specialized agency of the United
3 Nations (UN) that manages the administration and
4 governance of the Convention on International Civil
5 Aviation or the Chicago Convention, of which the
6 Philippines became a party in 1947;

7 (m) *Issuing Authority* refers to the DFA Office of
8 Consular Affairs, DFA Consular Offices in the Philippines,
9 or the Philippine Foreign Service Posts overseas which
10 issue passports and provide other consular services;

11 (n) *Legal Guardians* refer to persons exercising
12 parental authority, either by operation of law or by order of
13 the court, over minors or persons above eighteen (18) years
14 of age but who are unable to fully take care of themselves
15 or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty,
16 exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or
17 mental disability or condition;

18 (o) *Machine Readable Travel Document* refers to a
19 travel document conforming with the specifications
20 contained in ICAO Document 9303;

1 (p) *Passport* refers to the ICAO-compliant machine
2 readable travel document issued by the Philippine
3 Government which contains a request to other
4 governments to permit its bearer to pass safely and freely,
5 and to provide all lawful aid and protection, if needed;

6 (q) *Passport Personalization* refers to the process
7 by which the biometric data, biographic data, and the
8 signature are applied to the passport;

9 (r) *Passporting Services* refer to services relating to
10 the processing, encoding, transmission, personalization,
11 and releasing of passports, including online services; and
12 all other related functions and capacities;

13 (s) *Recognized Alien Residents* refer to aliens who
14 are permanent residents of the Philippines, or who are
15 stateless persons or refugees, as recognized by the
16 Philippine Government;

17 (t) *Refugee* refers to a person who, owing to a well-
18 founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race,
19 religion, nationality, membership of a particular social
20 group or political opinion, is outside the country of his

1 nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is
2 unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country;
3 or who, not having a nationality and being outside the
4 country of his or her former habitual residence, is unable
5 or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it, and is
6 officially given refugee status by the Philippine
7 government;

8 (u) *Stateless Person* refers to a person who is not
9 considered as a national by any State under the operation
10 of its law; and

11 (v) *Travel Document* refers to an official document
12 issued by the Philippine Government and is used by the
13 holder for international travel.

14 SEC. 4. *Authority to Issue, Deny, or Cancel.* – Upon
15 the application of any qualified Filipino citizen, the
16 Secretary of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as
17 “DFA Secretary”, or any duly authorized consular official
18 may issue passports in accordance with this Act.

19 Philippine consular officials in a foreign country shall
20 be authorized by the DFA Secretary to issue, deny, or

1 cancel a passport in the area of jurisdiction of the Foreign
2 Service Post in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

3 In the interest of national security, public safety, and
4 public health, and in accordance with Sections 5 and 10 of
5 this Act, the DFA Secretary or any of the authorized
6 consular officials may deny issuance of a passport or cancel
7 a passport: *Provided*, That such act shall not mean a loss
8 of, or a doubt on, the person's citizenship: *Provided*,
9 *further*, That the issuance of a passport may not be denied
10 if the safety and interest of the Filipino citizen are at
11 stake: *Provided, finally*, That denial or cancellation of a
12 passport shall not prevent the issuance of an Emergency
13 Travel Document to allow for a safe return journey by a
14 Filipino to the Philippines.

15 *SEC. 5. Requirements for the Application and Issuance*
16 *of a Passport.* – The DFA Secretary, or a duly authorized
17 consular official, shall issue a passport to an applicant who
18 is a Filipino citizen and who has complied with the
19 following requirements:

1 (a) Personal appearance for biometric and
2 biographic data capturing;

3 (b) A duly accomplished application form;

4 (c) Proof of citizenship as prescribed by relevant
5 laws regarding the acquisition of Philippine citizenship
6 which includes, but is not limited to:

7 (1) For natural born citizens, Certificate of Live
8 Birth or Report of Birth, or Certificate of Foundling,
9 whichever is applicable, authenticated by the Philippine
10 Statistics Authority (PSA);

11 (2) For naturalized citizens, Certificate of
12 Naturalization, Identification Certificate, Court Order
13 granting naturalization, Decree of Naturalization, or copy
14 of law granting legislative naturalization;

15 (3) Identification Certificate for those who avail of
16 recognition with the Bureau of Immigration;

17 (4) Order of Approval, Identification Certificate and
18 Oath of Allegiance for those who avail of reacquisition or
19 retention of Philippine citizenship under Republic Act

1 No. 9225, otherwise known as “Citizenship Retention and
2 Reacquisition Act of 2003”;

3 (d) Valid and sufficient proof of identity, foremost of
4 which is the applicant’s PhilID issued pursuant to Republic
5 Act No. 11055 or the “Philippine Identification System
6 Act”, or competent proof of identity;

7 (e) For a married woman who wishes to use her
8 husband’s surname, Certificate of Marriage or Report of
9 Marriage, whichever is applicable, authenticated by PSA;

10 (f) For a woman who wishes to revert to the use of
11 her maiden name, a duly authenticated birth certificate by
12 the PSA: *Provided*, That she can only revert to her maiden
13 name once and all her other existing identification cards
14 and pertinent documents shall likewise reflect her maiden
15 name.

16 If the reversion is by virtue of an annulment,
17 declaration of nullity of marriage, legal separation,
18 judicially-recognized foreign divorce, or death of a
19 husband, a duly annotated Certificate of Marriage or
20 Report of Marriage, whichever is applicable, or Certificate

1 of Death or Report of Death, whichever is applicable,
2 authenticated by PSA;

3 (g) For a minor applicant, the application may be
4 filed by either parent: *Provided*, That if a person other
5 than the minor's parents files the application, a Special
6 Power of Attorney (SPA) duly executed by a person
7 exercising parental authority, as per existing laws, must be
8 presented for this purpose. For minor applicants who are
9 foundlings, an adult guardian, through the presentation of
10 a letter of guardianship issued by a Family Court and a
11 Department of Social Welfare and Development clearance,
12 may file for the minor's passport application;

13 (h) Certificate Declaring a Child Legally Available
14 for Adoption issued by the National Authority for Child
15 Care if the applicant is a prospective adoptive child under
16 the Republic Act No. 11642, or the "Domestic
17 Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act";

18 (i) For the renewal of passports by applicants who
19 are sixty (60) years old and above and by migrant workers
20 abroad, the DFA shall implement a system wherein the

1 applicants may submit their application without the need
2 to physically appear in the Office of Consular Affairs or
3 any Consular Office, through the use of available
4 technology;

5 (j) For applicants who are unable to read or write,
6 persons with disabilities (PWDs), or senior citizens, they
7 may be assisted by a relative within the fourth civil degree
8 of consanguinity or affinity, or by the traveling companion
9 of the applicant;

10 (k) In case of discrepancy, the applicant's name or
11 other details in the Certificate of Live Birth or Report of
12 Birth shall prevail over those appearing in any other public
13 or private document unless by operation of law or through
14 court order, the applicant is permitted to use a name other
15 than what is officially recorded in the PSA;

16 Valid IDs must be consistent with the name and
17 other biographic details in the Certificate of Live Birth or
18 Report of Birth, as well as to the Certificate of Marriage or
19 Report of Marriage, or laws wherein a woman prefers to
20 use her husband's surname on any given form; and

1 (l) For government officials or employees seeking to
2 apply for a diplomatic or official passport, they shall
3 submit a travel authority issued by the head of the
4 department, agency, or office, or such head's duly
5 authorized representative.

6 SEC. 6. *Prohibition Against Unfair and Discriminatory*
7 *Practices.* – The DFA, as well as its authorized passport
8 issuing authorities and personnel, shall only require
9 documents to prove the following: (1) identity of the
10 applicant; (2) the applicant's citizenship, and (3) lack of
11 legal travel restrictions, consistent with Republic Act
12 No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient
13 Government Service Delivery Act of 2018".

14 SEC. 7. *Types of Passports.* – The DFA Secretary or
15 the authorized consular official may issue the following
16 types of passports:

17 (a) *Diplomatic Passports* are issued to citizens with
18 diplomatic status or who are on diplomatic mission, such
19 as:

1 (1) The President and former Presidents of the
2 Philippines;

3 (2) The Vice-President and former Vice-Presidents
4 of the Philippines;

5 (3) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives, and former Presidents of the
7 Senate and Speakers of the House of Representatives;

8 (4) The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the
9 Supreme Court, as well as the respective Presiding
10 Justices of the Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, and
11 the Sandiganbayan;

12 (5) The Secretary, Undersecretaries, and Assistant
13 Secretaries of the DFA;

14 (6) The Members of Congress, the Secretary of the
15 Senate, and the Secretary General of the House of
16 Representatives;

17 (7) The Ambassadors Extraordinary and
18 Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines; Chiefs of
19 Mission, Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career
20 diplomatic service, and designated attachés from the DFA

1 and agencies of the government, including the officials of
2 the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) as created under
3 Section 15 of Republic Act No. 11641 or the “Department of
4 Migrant Workers Act”;

5 (8) The Secretaries of all departments of the
6 Executive branch;

7 (9) The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng
8 Pilipinas;

9 (10) The official delegates to international or
10 regional conferences duly authorized to represent the
11 country; and

12 (11) The spouses and minor children of the
13 abovementioned officials when accompanying or following
14 to join them on a diplomatic mission abroad.

15 The President of the Philippines or the DFA
16 Secretary may grant diplomatic passport to officials and
17 persons other than those enumerated herein.

18 (b) *Official Passports* are issued to all government
19 officials and employees on official trip abroad but who are

1 not on a diplomatic mission or have not been accorded
2 diplomatic status, such as:

3 (1) The Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries
4 of the Cabinet other than the DFA, the Associate Justices
5 of the Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, the
6 Sandiganbayan, and other members of the Judiciary, and
7 all other government officials and employees traveling on
8 official business and official time;

9 (2) Staff officers and employees of the DFA assigned
10 to diplomatic and consular posts, as well as officers and
11 representatives of other government departments and
12 agencies assigned abroad;

13 (3) Persons in the domestic service of officials
14 assigned to diplomatic or consular posts; and

15 (4) Spouse and minor children of the staff officers
16 and employees of the DFA assigned to diplomatic or
17 consular posts and offices and representatives of other
18 government agencies assigned abroad, when accompanying
19 or following to join them.

1 (c) *Regular Passports* are issued to Filipino citizens
2 who are not eligible or entitled to diplomatic or official
3 passports, including government officials or employees
4 going abroad for pleasure or other personal reasons.
5 Government officials and employees and members of their
6 families may, during their incumbency in office, hold two
7 (2) passports simultaneously:

8 (1) A regular passport for private travel; and

9 (2) A diplomatic or official passport when traveling
10 abroad on a diplomatic or official business.

11 The DFA shall prescribe the number of pages of
12 passport booklets based on international standards and
13 best practices: *Provided*, That an option to apply for a
14 passport booklet with additional pages shall be made
15 available subject to reasonable fees as may be determined
16 by the DFA Secretary.

17 SEC. 8. *Emergency Travel Documents*. – Types of
18 emergency travel documents:

19 (a) *Emergency Passports* shall be issued to Filipino
20 travelers who have lost their passports while traveling

1 overseas and are justifiably in need to complete their
2 intended overseas travel prior to their return to the
3 Philippines or their residence overseas. This shall be valid
4 for one (1) year from date of issuance; and

5 (b) *Emergency Travel Certificate* shall be issued to
6 Filipinos returning to the Philippines who have lost their
7 passports overseas or cannot be issued a regular passport.
8 This certificate shall be valid for thirty (30) days up to six
9 (6) months from date of issuance.

10 The Filipino's alien spouse and children who are
11 traveling to, or are returning as permanent residents of,
12 the Philippines may also be issued an emergency travel
13 certificate.

14 SEC. 9. *Convention Travel Document.* – A convention
15 travel document shall be issued to a stateless person who
16 is likewise a permanent resident of the Philippines or a
17 refugee granted such status or asylum in the country. This
18 document shall be valid for five (5) years from date of
19 issuance.

1 SEC. 10. *Grounds for Denial of Issuance of Passport;*
2 *Cancellation of Passport; or Imposition of Restrictions on*
3 *Passports.* – A passport application may be denied, or
4 cancelled, or restrictions may be imposed on a passport,
5 based on the following grounds:

6 (a) Denial of Issuance of Passport:

7 (1) Upon orders of the court to hold the departure of
8 an individual;

9 (2) Upon submission of a duly notarized request by
10 the person exercising parental authority over a minor or
11 incapacitated applicant;

12 (3) When the applicant has been found to have
13 violated any of the provisions of this Act; or

14 (4) Such other disqualification under existing laws.

15 (b) Cancellation of Passport:

16 (1) Upon orders of the court, when the holder has
17 been convicted of a criminal offense: *Provided*, That a
18 passport may be issued after service of sentence;

19 (2) Upon orders of the court, when the holder is a
20 fugitive from justice;

1 (3) Upon orders of the court, when the holder is a
2 suspected terrorist charged with any violation of
3 Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of Republic Act
4 No. 11479 or “The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020”: *Provided*,
5 That a passport may be issued upon: (a) acquittal of the
6 accused, (b) the dismissal of the case filed against such
7 person, or (c) the discretion of the court on motion of the
8 prosecutor or of the accused;

9 (4) When a passport was acquired fraudulently,
10 tampered with, or issued erroneously; or

11 (5) When a passport is returned to the DFA by
12 other government agencies or entities: *Provided*, That
13 cancellation of the passport will not prevent the holder
14 from being issued a new passport.

15 Denial of passport application or cancellation of
16 passport for reasons other than by order of the court may
17 be appealed to the DFA Secretary.

18 (c) Imposition of Restriction on Passport:

19 (1) When a hold departure order or a precautionary
20 hold departure order is issued by a competent court

1 against a suspected person or a respondent to a criminal
2 case;

3 (2) When the country of designation is in a state of
4 political instability which could pose a danger to the
5 Filipino traveler;

6 (3) When diplomatic ties have been fractured or
7 severed with the Philippines; or

8 (4) When the country of destination is subject to
9 travel restriction by government policy, enforcement action
10 by the UN or in a state of war.

11 SEC. 11. *Passport Database.* – The DFA shall
12 maintain and operate its own database, which shall
13 contain the following: (a) applicants' biographic data,
14 biometric data, demographic data; (b) record of denials,
15 cancellations, stolen, and lost passports; and (c) such other
16 information as may be necessary to implement this Act.

17 The DFA, in coordination with the Department of
18 Information and Communications Technology, National
19 Privacy Commission, PSA, and other pertinent agencies,
20 shall implement appropriate organizational, technical, and

1 physical security measures to ensure that the information
2 gathered for the passport database is protected against
3 tampering, loss, destruction, damage, and unauthorized
4 access, use, and disclosure.

5 SEC. 12. *Validity.* – Regular passports issued under
6 this Act shall be valid for a period of ten (10) years:
7 *Provided, That* for individuals under eighteen (18) years of
8 age, only a passport with five (5)-year validity shall be
9 issued: *Provided, further, That* the issuing authority may
10 limit the period of validity to less than ten (10) years
11 whenever such restriction is necessary in the interest of
12 national economy or political stability of the country.

13 SEC. 13. *Ownership of Passports.* – A Philippine
14 passport remains at all times the property of the
15 government and the same may not be confiscated by any
16 entity or person other than the DFA. Any other
17 government agency, official or employee who confiscates a
18 passport or travel document shall promptly turn over the
19 same to the DFA.

1 Persons who confiscate or otherwise withhold a
2 passport without authority therefor shall be punished in
3 accordance with Section 22(a) of this Act.

4 SEC. 14. *Names and Titles.* – Passports shall contain
5 the full name of the applicant, but shall not include any
6 title, profession or job description.

7 The Philippine naming conventions and the relevant
8 laws of the Philippines on the names of persons shall
9 govern the details that shall be reflected in the passport.

10 SEC. 15. *Loss or Destruction of a Passport.* – The loss
11 or destruction of a passport shall be immediately reported
12 to the DFA or a Foreign Service Post by submitting an
13 affidavit stating in detail the circumstances of such loss or
14 destruction.

15 A person who subsequently manages to locate his/her
16 lost passport shall turnover the same to the DFA. An
17 affidavit stating the location of the passport and the person
18 or entity in possession thereof shall be submitted in case
19 physical turnover of the lost passport is not feasible.

1 SEC. 16. *Fees.* – Reasonable fees shall be collected for
2 the processing and issuance of a passport or a travel
3 document: *Provided,* That any fee shall not be increased
4 more than once every three (3) years.

5 Senior citizens and PWDs shall be entitled to a
6 twenty percent (20%) discount on the application fees.

7 SEC. 17. *Passport Revolving Fund.* – The DFA may
8 charge a service fee of not more than thirty percent (30%)
9 of the regular passport fees for such service rendered to
10 applicants relating to the processing and issuance of
11 passports requiring special consideration, waiver, or
12 issuance beyond regular office hours.

13 The service fees received by the DFA under this
14 section shall constitute a revolving fund to be called as the
15 “Passport Revolving Fund” which may be utilized by the
16 DFA for the improvement of its passporting and consular
17 services and other DFA services except travel and
18 transportation allowances and expenses.

19 The setting up, use, and disbursement of funds shall
20 be subject to review, accounting, and auditing rules and

1 regulations of the Commission on Audit and will be subject
2 to annual review by Congress. The DFA Secretary shall
3 submit a report on the disbursement of the fund every
4 six (6) months to both the Senate Committee on Foreign
5 Relations and the House of Representatives Committee on
6 Foreign Affairs.

7 SEC. 18. *Establishment of an Online Application*
8 *Portal and Electronic One-Stop Shop.* – The DFA, in
9 coordination with other pertinent government agencies, is
10 mandated to establish and maintain an online application
11 portal and Electronic One-Stop Shop readily accessible on
12 its official website to facilitate convenience of application
13 and ease in gathering and submission of the requirements.

14 SEC. 19. *Offsite and Mobile Passport Services.* – The
15 DFA may provide offsite and mobile passport services in
16 areas outside of the consular offices and foreign service
17 posts.

18 SEC. 20. *Setting up of Special Lanes.* – The DFA shall
19 arrange accommodations for the application of regular
20 passports by senior citizens, PWDs, pregnant women,

1 minors aged seven (7) years old and below, solo parents,
2 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and individuals with
3 emergency and exceptional cases through the creation of
4 special lanes. The DFA shall arrange accommodations for
5 regular passport applications of Muslim Filipinos who are
6 intending pilgrims to the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which
7 shall be for a period of four (4) months commencing on the
8 date indicated in the official request by the National
9 Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

10 SEC. 21. *Waiver.* – The DFA Secretary may waive any
11 requirement set forth in Section 5 of this Act, as well as the
12 fees for the processing or issuance of passports and travel
13 documents contained in Section 16 of this Act, on
14 humanitarian grounds.

15 SEC. 22. *Offenses and Penalties.* – (a) *Offenses relating*
16 *to illegal withholding of passport; penalties.* – Any person
17 or entity without legal authority who confiscates, retains,
18 or withholds any passport issued by the DFA shall suffer
19 the penalty of imprisonment of not less than twelve (12)
20 years and one (1) day but not more than twenty (20) years,

1 and shall pay a fine of not less than One million pesos
2 (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos
3 (P2,000,000.00): *Provided*, That a prosecution under this
4 Act shall be without prejudice to any liability for violation
5 of Republic Act No. 8042 or the “Migrant Workers and
6 Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995”, as amended.

7 (b) *Offenses relating to issuances; penalties.* –
8 Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one (1) day
9 but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of not less
10 than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not
11 more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00)
12 shall be imposed upon any person or entity who:

13 (1) Acts or claims to act in any capacity or office
14 under the Republic of the Philippines without lawful
15 authority, accepts passport applications, grants, issues or
16 verifies any passport or other travel document to any or for
17 any person whomsoever, or is caught selling in whatever
18 capacity passport application forms, or lost or stolen
19 passports and travel documents;

1 (2) Acts or claims to act in any capacity, with the
2 intention to profit thereby, intercepts a person proceeding
3 to the DFA or any of its consular offices or foreign service
4 posts to apply for a passport or other travel document, and
5 persuades, entices, encourages, or misleads such applicant
6 to course the application through another person or agency
7 other than the DFA or its personnel on the pretext of
8 facilitating its approval or issuance by the DFA;

9 (3) Being neither a diplomatic or consular official,
10 nor an employee authorized to grant, issue, or verify any
11 passport or other travel document to or for any person, and
12 even though not claiming to be such, offers, for any
13 material gain or consideration, to escort a passport
14 applicant, or assist the same in booking an appointment,
15 filling out an application form, making payments, handling
16 application documents, or any other action relating to
17 passport application;

18 (4) Hoards and/or sells online passport appointment
19 slots for pecuniary gain or advantage;

1 (5) Being a diplomatic or consular official
2 authorized to grant, issue, or verify passports, knowingly
3 and willfully grants, issues, or verifies any such passport to
4 any or for any person not a citizen of the Republic of the
5 Philippines; or

6 (6) Being a diplomatic or consular official,
7 knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or certifies to the
8 authenticity of any passport or other travel document for
9 any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly and willfully
10 issues more than one (1) passport to any person except as
11 provided for in this Act.

12 (c) *Offenses relating to forgery; penalties.* –
13 Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one day to
14 twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than One hundred
15 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two
16 hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) shall be
17 imposed upon any person or entity who willfully and
18 knowingly:

19 (1) Forges, counterfeits, mutilates or alters any
20 passport or other travel document or any supporting

1 document for a passport application. The possession of the
2 documents herein mentioned shall be *prima facie* evidence
3 of commission of the acts enumerated herein; or

4 (2) Uses or attempts to use, or furnishes to another
5 for use, any such forged, counterfeited, mutilated, altered,
6 or cancelled passport or other travel document.

7 (d) *Offenses relating to improper use of passports,*
8 *other travel documents, and supporting documents;*
9 *penalties.* – Imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and
10 one day but not more than twelve (12) years and a fine of
11 not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)
12 but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos
13 (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person who
14 willfully and knowingly:

15 (1) Uses or attempts to use any passport or other
16 travel document issued for the use of another;

17 (2) Uses or attempts to use any supporting
18 document belonging to another; or

19 (3) Sells, trades, pawns, mortgages, or uses a
20 passport or other travel document as a collateral to secure

1 debt, or in any manner uses such passport or other travel
2 document as currency or object of commerce: *Provided,*
3 That in such situation, the buyer, trader, creditor, or
4 mortgagee shall also be liable to the same extent as the
5 passport/travel document holder.

6 (e) *Offenses relating to false statements; penalties.* –
7 Imprisonment of not less than eighteen (18) months and
8 one (1) day but not more than six (6) years and a fine of not
9 less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but
10 not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos
11 (P250,000.00) shall be imposed upon any person who
12 willfully and knowingly:

13 (1) Makes any false statement in any application
14 for passport or other travel document with the intent to
15 induce or secure the issuance of a passport or other travel
16 document contrary to this Act or rules and regulations
17 prescribed pursuant hereto;

18 (2) Makes any false statement in an affidavit
19 declaring a passport or other travel document as lost or
20 destroyed; or

1 (3) Uses or attempts to use any passport or other
2 travel document which was secured in any way by reason
3 of any false statement.

4 (f) *Offenses pertaining to unfair and discriminatory*
5 *practices.* – Any violation of Section 6 of this Act shall
6 warrant the following penalties and liabilities:

7 (1) First Offense: Administrative liability with six
8 (6) months suspension;

9 (2) Second Offense: Administrative liability and
10 criminal liability of dismissal from service, perpetual
11 disqualification from holding public office and forfeiture of
12 retirement benefits and imprisonment of eighteen (18)
13 months and one day to six (6) years with a fine of not less
14 than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not
15 more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos
16 (P250,000.00).

17 (g) *Syndicate or on a large scale.* – The penalties
18 provided for under this section shall be imposed in their
19 maximum when the offenses are committed by a syndicate
20 or on a large scale.

1 The offense is deemed committed by a syndicate if
2 carried out by a group of three (3) or more persons
3 conspiring or confederating with one another. It is deemed
4 committed on a large scale if committed against three (3)
5 or more persons, individually or as a group.

6 (h) *Offender is a public official.* – In addition to the
7 penalties prescribed in this section, the offender shall be
8 dismissed from service and shall suffer perpetual absolute
9 disqualification to hold public office.

10 (i) *Offender is a corporation, partnership,*
11 *association, or any juridical person.* – The penalty
12 prescribed in this section shall be imposed upon the
13 president, partner, manager, and/or any responsible officer
14 of the corporation, association, or any juridical person who
15 directly participated in the commission of the violation of
16 this Act and/or allowed its perpetuation and continuance:
17 *Provided, That in every case, the criminal conviction of the*
18 *liable person shall cause and carry the automatic*
19 *revocation of the business license and/or special certificate*
20 *of accreditation or certificate of registration of the*

1 corporation, partnership, association, or the juridical
2 person: *Provided, further,* That these entities and the
3 persons who are criminally held liable for the violation of
4 this Act shall not be allowed to operate similar
5 establishments under different names.

6 (j) *Offender is an alien.* – In addition to the
7 penalties prescribed in this section, the alien shall be
8 deported after serving the sentence and be permanently
9 barred from entering the Philippines.

10 SEC. 23. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for
11 the effective implementation of this Act shall be included
12 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13 SEC. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* –
14 Within sixty (60) days from effectivity, the DFA shall
15 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
16 proper implementation of this Act.

17 SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
18 Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not
19 otherwise affected shall remain in force and effect.

1 SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential
2 decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction,
3 proclamations, or administrative regulations that are
4 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
5 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after
7 fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication
8 either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
9 circulation.

Approved,