



PRESS RELEASE

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CONSULAR OUTREACH – LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER 15 August 2009

Los Angeles, 15 July 2009 – A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles will conduct a Consular Outreach Program during the **Phil-Am Expo 2009 to be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on 15 August 2009:**

Location : **Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall B
1201 So. Figueroa St., Los Angeles CA 90015**

Service Hours : **10:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

The consular outreach program is being undertaken in cooperation with the ***Radio Manila, California Examiner and Frontliners Media Group.***

The following consular services will be rendered:

1. Applications for Machine Readable Passport (**Cost: \$50**), to be returned to the applicant by mail at an additional cost of **\$6**.
2. Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Registration. (**Gratis**)

Note: This consular outreach program will **not** accept applications for **dual citizenship** and **authentication** and **notarization** of documents.

1. **Steps for Machine Readable Passport (MRP) Applicants**

- a. Visit the Philippine Consulate website (www.philippineconsulatela.org) and print the passport application form;
- b. Complete the passport application form;
- c. Photocopy pertinent pages of Philippine passport (e.g. datapage, visa page and last page of passport),
- d. Incomplete forms and requirements will not be processed.

2. **Appointment Scheduling Steps for Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Registrants**

- a. Visit the Philippine Consulate website (www.philippineconsulatela.org) and print the OAV Registration form;
- b. Complete the OAV Registration form;
- c. Photocopy pertinent pages of Philippine passport (e.g. datapage, visa page and last page of passport),

Information FOR ALL APPLICANTS

The applicant should bring the original and photocopy of their documents.

Personal appearance is **required** for all applicants for data verification, finger-printing and signature capture. Applications by mail are no longer accepted.

All **applicants** are **advised** to **transact** their **business** directly with **Consulate officials** and not through travel agencies.

Private photographers, who are knowledgeable of the photo requirements for the machine readable passport, will be **present** at the **venue** during the Consular Outreach for those who will need photos for passport renewal. To obtain details regarding the new passport photo requirements, applicants may visit the Consulate's website (www.philippineconsulatela.org).

Fees

Fees must be paid in person at the scheduled appointment. The Consulate will only accept payments in cash, postal money order or cashier's check. Personal checks will not be accepted.

Machine Readable Passport: **\$50** processing fee + **\$6** for passports to be returned to the applicant by mail

OAV Registration: **Free**

Contact Information

For information on consular matters, interested parties may wish to call the Philippine Consulate General at (213) 639-0980.

For information on the LACC Outreach venue and other matters, parties may call the office of Radio Manila & California Examiner at (323) 344-3500.

General Summary of Machine Readable Passport Requirements & Processing Time

For the information of the public, the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the U.S. started to accept and to process applications for Machine Readable Passports (MRP) on **2 June 2008**. This is in compliance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for its member states, including the Philippines, to issue MRPs not later than **1 April 2010**.

Since applications are sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila via diplomatic pouch, it may take **six (6) weeks** for a passport to be released to the applicants, from the time the application is accepted.

While **some countries** may still **honor** valid **green Philippine** passports beyond 1 April 2010 as ***bona fide travel documents*** until they expire, **most countries** will **require** travelers to be holders of either **machine readable passports** or **e-passport** for their sojourn by **2010**.

In this regard, all Philippine **passport holders** are advised **to renew** their Philippine passport **six (6) months prior** to its **expiration**, in accordance with ICAO regulations, and **to secure** their **plane tickets** only after they have **received** their **new passport**.

All Filipinos, including those with valid green passports, are therefore **encouraged to apply** for their machine readable passports **as early as possible**. ###end