



PRESS RELEASE
MJBA-091-2009 (revised)

CONSULAR OUTREACH – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
10-11 October 2009

Los Angeles, 24 August 2009 – A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles will conduct a Consular Outreach Program in **Las Vegas, Nevada** on **10-11 October 2009**:

Location : **Masonic Memorial Temple**
2200 W. Mesquite Ave., Las Vegas NV 89106

Service Hours : **9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

The consular outreach program is being undertaken in cooperation with the ***Filipino American Heritage Foundation - Nevada, Las Vegas Philippine American Lions Club, Bikolnon Association of Las Vegas, and other local Filipino-American organizations.***

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. Applications for the retention and re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship pursuant to Republic Act 9225 or Dual Citizenship Law (**Cost: \$50**). Oath-taking will be scheduled on the same day for qualified applicants.
3. Notarization/Authentication of Documents (**Cost: \$25**), to be returned to the applicant by mail at an additional cost of **\$6**.

While **walk-in applicants** will also be **entertained**, **priority** will be given to those with **confirmed appointments** with the Consulate, as posted in the website. All **walk-in applicants** are **advised** to **transact** their **business** directly with **Consulate officials** and not through travel agencies. Walk-in applicants are by definition those who did not pass through travel agencies.

1. **Appointment Scheduling 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; and,

- c. **No later than 2 October 2009**, send an **advance copy** of the completed passport application form and data page (bearing the name and photo) of the old passport to the Consulate either by **fax (213) 639-0990 (Attn: Las Vegas Outreach)** or by **email attachment to consular.outreach.lv@gmail.com**. **Thumbprint and photo are not necessary; these will be done on site**. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

2. **Appointment Scheduling Steps for Dual Citizenship Applicants**

- a. Visit the Philippine Consulate website (www.philippineconsulatela.org) and print the Dual Citizenship Application form;
- b. Complete the Dual Citizenship Application form; and,
- c. **No later than 2 October 2009**, send an **advance copy** of the completed Dual Citizenship application form and supporting documents to the Consulate either by **fax (213) 639-0990 (Attn: Las Vegas Outreach)** or by **email attachment to consular.outreach.lv@gmail.com**. **Thumbprint and photo are not necessary; these will be done on site**. Incomplete forms will not be processed.

Note: Oath-Taking will be scheduled on the same day for qualified applicants.

3. **For Notarization/Authentication of Documents & Civil Registry Applicants**

No need to set up there is no need for an appointment. It's first come, first served basis. Applicants should bring all original documents/requirements/photo IDs. Consulate staff will evaluate and receive them. Processing will be done in Los Angeles and processed documents will be mailed back to applicants. Mailing fee will be assessed in addition to notarization/civil registry fees.

Information FOR ALL APPLICANTS

The Consulate regularly updates the appointment schedule posted on the website as they receive the completed applications.

The **final list** of all applicants with **pre-processed applications** will be posted at the Consulate's website (www.philippineconsulatela.org) **by 10 August 2009**. **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
Dual Citizenship:	\$50 processing fee
Notarization/Authentication:	\$25 per document + \$6 for documents to be returned to the applicant by mail

Contact Information

For information on consular matters, E-mail: consular.outreach.lv@gmail.com or interested parties may wish to call: **Vice Consul Ruel Gunabe** (Tel: 1-213-637-3020).

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