



ADVISORY TO ALL PHILIPPINE PASSPORT HOLDERS

Since 2 June 2008, the Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the U.S. have been accepting and processing applications for Machine Readable Passports (MRP). 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 weeks** for a passport to be released to the applicants, from the time the application is accepted. **Personal appearance** is required for data verification, finger-printing and signature capture. Applications by mail are no longer accepted.

In compliance with the new photo requirements for the MRP, applicants are requested to visit the Consulate's website (www.philippineconsulatela.org).

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 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**.

Los Angeles, 29 January 2009