



PRESS RELEASE

MJBA-021-2010

CONSULAR OUTREACH – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 19-20 June 2010

Los Angeles, 5 April 2010 – A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles will conduct a Consular Outreach Program in **Las Vegas, Nevada** on **19-20 June 2010**:

Location : **BUGSY'S**
6145 W. Sahara Ave., (corner S. Jones Blvd.)
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Service Hours : **19 June: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm**
20 June: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The consular outreach program is being undertaken in cooperation with the ***Filipino American Heritage Foundation – Nevada and U.P. Alumni Association of Nevada.***

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**.

Application forms and requirements can be downloaded from the Consulate's website at www.philippineconsulatela.org or obtain them at the **Filipino Business Directory of Las Vegas**, 6655 W. Sahara Ave., Suite D-112, Las Vegas, NV 89146.

STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (by following the applicable scheduling steps below) **AND WITH COMPLETED DOCUMENTS ONLY**. No walk-in applicants will be entertained. All applicants with confirmed appointments are advised to bring all ORIGINAL required documents and to arrive at the venue 15 minutes before their scheduled appointments, for documents verification.

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

- a. Complete the **passport application form**; and,
- b. **No later than 12 June 2010**, 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**. **Other than the thumbprint and photo which will be done on site, all pertinent data on the application form must be completed. Otherwise, incomplete forms will not be processed.**

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

- a. Complete the **Dual Citizenship Application form**; and,
- b. **No later than 12 June 2010**, 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**. **Other than the thumbprint and photo which will be done on site, all pertinent data on the application form must be completed. Otherwise, incomplete forms will not be processed.**

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

3. **Appointment Scheduling Steps for Notarization/Authentication of Documents**

- a. **No later than 12 June 2010**, send an **advance copy** of the completed legal document to the Consulate (**Attn: Las Vegas Outreach**) either by **fax (213) 639-0990** or by **email attachment to consular.outreach.lv@gmail.com**.

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 14 June 2010**. **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 the venue, interested parties may wish to call **Mr. Ceasar Elpidio** (Tel: 1-702-451-5051) or **Mr. Bernie Benito** (Tel: 1-702-528-6298).

For information on consular matters, interested parties may wish to call: **Consul jim San Agustin** at Tel: 1-213-637-3011 or e-mail: consular.outreach.lv@gmail.com.

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