



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL
P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PR-CBR- -2009

Vice Consul

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**ADVISORY:
FALSE INFORMATION ON PASSPORTS BEING CIRCULATED**

NEW YORK – It has been brought to the attention of the Philippine Consulate General New York that an email entitled "Old "green" passport not valid starting January 2010" has been circulating in the community.

The Philippine Consulate wishes to clarify that this information is false and that the Department of Foreign Affairs has advised applicants that the **Green Passport will be honored as a bonafide travel document issued by the Philippine Government until it expires, even if the Machine Readable Passport is already in circulation.** However, after April 2010 (the deadline for issuing ICAO Standard MRP), some ports of entry may ask those travelling with non-machine readable passports to cue in a different line, as they will have to be manually encoded by immigration officers. While it is advised that holders of non-machine readable passports replace their passports to avoid this inconvenience, this is not mandatory.

As to the email circulating via the internet, the Philippine Consulate General notes that the text of the email refers to the DFA main office in Pasay City and to fees paid in Philippine pesos. It is further noted that some travel agencies in the Philippines are accredited to pre-process passport applications, for which applicants pay an additional fee. In our estimation, this email was created by one such agency, in an effort to profit from those alarmed by their message. Since the DFA main office has already implemented an appointment system for those applying for passports in Manila, a system which applicants can access online through its website (dfa.gov.ph), the convenience provided by a travel agency over the regular system may not be substantial. A request for investigation has already been made with the DFA.

Again, we wish to assure the community that the green Philippine passports will be honored for as long as they are valid. Since some international ports of entry require that passports be valid for at least six months before they allow entry, and because it takes six (6) weeks for the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the US to process passport, we advise all Filipinos to keep their documents in order and check the validity of their passports before booking any travels. END

Labanan ang Kahirapan

Ramdam ang Kaunlaran

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