

Green Philippine passports no longer valid by 2010

PAGE A6 ◀

same time, personal details of an individual are also visible to the naked eye.

The ICAO is an agency of the United Nations that fosters the planning and development of air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.

It has required all its member states, including the Philippines, to issue MRPs before April 1, 2010 to replace existing passports of its citizens. MRPs are expected to make processing of travelers at ports of entry faster since the information in the passport can be read by the machine and stored automatically in the database of immigration offices.

This is expected to make processing of travelers at ports of entry and exit faster.

"This means greater convenience and security for the traveler. In the past, the information is manually encoded in the database," the Los Angeles Philippine Consulate said in its website.

The Consul General in a statement said that Filipinos who want to apply for a MRP during the consular outreach in Las Vegas need to make an appointment on or before May 20.

"While walk in applicants will also be entertained, priority will be given to those with confirmed appointments," it added.

Appointments can be made via email at laphilcongen@gmail.com or fax 213-639-0990, while application forms can be downloaded from www.philippineconsulatela.org.

Confirmed appointments will be posted at this website as well.

MRP applicants also need to mail or fax advanced copies of application forms as well as a copy of the data page of their current passports. In addition, they need to submit three passport-sized photos with royal blue background, instead of white during the consular outreach. All applicants with confirmed appointments are required to complete the application in person.

MRP application fee is \$50 while mailing costs an additional

\$6. It will take approximately six weeks to receive the new document

Meanwhile, the consular team will also offer other services during the two-day outreach which will be held from 9am to 5pm at the Colonade Square Plaza on 8826 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 115 Las Vegas, NV.

Other consular transactions include processing of applications for retention and re-acquisition

of Philippine citizenship; notarization of documents; and registration for overseas absentee voting.

Filipinos who want to avail of these additional services during the Consular outreach should also send advanced copies of application forms to the Los Angeles Consular office via fax or e-mail. They need to as set up appointments before May 20 via fax or e-mail as well. ■



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Deborah Karapetian is licensed as an attorney in both California and Texas, and an active member of the State Bar of California. All matters handled by her office are case specific, and the outcome depends on the specific facts of each case.

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4 7 3 - 3 6 2 2
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DEBORAH L. KARAPETIAN
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Attorney Gali Koren is the firm's founder and managing attorney. She received her Juris Doctor Degree, Magna Cum Laude, from Western State University. She obtained her LLM in International Law from the University of San Diego Law School, majoring in Immigration Law. Ms. Koren is a member of the State Bar of California and is authorized to represent clients on immigration matters in all 50 states.



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| <p>Gali Koren, Esq
JD, Magna Cum Laude - WSU
LLM, International Law - USD
Licensed, California Bar
Member: AILA, OCB, LACBA</p> <p>Carlo L. Borja
JD, Ateneo de Manila University
Licensed in the Philippines</p> <p>Jaime M. Borja
LLB, Manuel L. Quezon University
Licensed in the Philippines</p> <p>Sarah Dee, Esq
JD, Cum Laude - Whittier Law School
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