

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND LOST PASSPORTS

What is a travel document?

A travel document allows the bearer a one-way trip back to the Philippines. It is only issued in critical instances, usually in life or death situations or in case of a deportation order. A Travel Document is valid for only thirty (30) days from the date of issue.

How can I apply for a travel document and how fast will it be issued?

In case of an emergency, you can apply for a travel document upon submission of proof of emergency and other necessary documents as may be required by the Embassy. If the papers are complete, the Embassy will issue in your favor a travel document as soon as possible.

I have a ticket to return to the Philippines but my new passport will not be released before I am supposed to leave. Can I use a travel document?

You have to plan your travel carefully and airline tickets should be purchased only after receipt of the renewed passport. However, if you have valid proof of a serious emergency, you can be issued a travel document upon submission of proof aside from the return ticket.

To avoid any hassle, always check the validity date of your passport before purchasing any travel ticket. Make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months from the intended date of your travel to and from the Philippines.

What constitutes valid proof of an emergency?

If you urgently need a travel document because of a serious emergency, such as arrest of an undocumented worker, a critically ill family member or death in the family, then the particulars of the emergency should be communicated directly to the Embassy. In case of deportation, the Embassy coordinates with French immigration authorities before a travel document is issued.

In the absence of a travel document, what can a Filipino national use as his identification?

In case he is still preparing his documentary requirements for the application of a new passport, he can be issued an Embassy ID. The Embassy ID is issued for free, except in cases where a previously issued Embassy ID is lost, in which case, payment for the notarization of an Affidavit of Loss will be charged. The Embassy ID is issued to a Filipino national residing in France or Monaco upon presentation of an old Philippine passport.

What are the requirements for applying for a replacement passport for the one I lost?

In order for an individual to qualify for a new passport, the Embassy must determine two things: the true identity of the individual and that the individual is a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines. To establish these requirements, the Embassy will require the applicant to submit a DFA-authenticated birth certificate issued by the NSO, a DFA-authenticated marriage contract issued by the NSO for married women, recent NBI clearance, Voter's ID or Baptismal Certificate, and any other form of identification. Additional supporting documents may also be required to establish the applicant's identity, Philippine citizenship, and the circumstances surrounding the loss of the passport. In addition to the documentary requirements, the Embassy has to receive clearance from the DFA in Manila to replace a lost passport. Due to the significant volume of lost passport cases, the mandatory waiting period for the clearance and issuance of the new passport takes almost three (3) months.

Why are there so many documents required to replace a lost passport?

The Embassy must be able to fully investigate the circumstances surrounding the loss of an applicant's passport, and it must be satisfied that the applicant's identity is true and that the applicant is indeed a Philippine citizen. To do this, substantial documentation is needed. This thoroughness is necessary to protect the integrity of the Philippine passport.

Why does the Embassy require birth certificates that are certified by the NSO? Why can't I use my old one?

The Embassy must clearly establish the identity of the applicant. To do so, it must be confident that the documents submitted are authentic. Only the new NSO-certified birth certificates provide the required level of security. The Embassy is also required by law to ensure that all of the particulars that appear in the passport are the same as those that appear in the birth certificate.

I applied for a replacement for my lost passport and I was asked to submit a clearance from NBI (National Bureau of Investigation). Why is this so?

The Consular Officer requires the applicant to submit a recent NBI clearance to aid in establishing an applicant's identity.

What happens if I entered France or Monaco using an assumed name?

Upon surrender of the passport bearing the assumed identity, you will be made to apply for a new passport as if you are applying to replace a lost passport.