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PRESS RELEASE

**DISCONTINUANCE OF EXTENSION OF GREEN MACHINE READABLE
READY PASSPORTS (MRRP)**

The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto wishes to announce to the general public that the extension of the validity of Machine Readable Ready Passports (MRRPs), (green passport), is now **discontinued**. This is in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) standards requiring all non-machine readable passports to be out of circulation before 24 November 2015.

However, the validity of the Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) (maroon passport) which is expiring within the six (6) month-period or has already expired may be extended only once for two (2) years **not beyond 31 October 2015** on the following conditions:

1. Death in the family requiring the OFW and members of his/ her dependent family to travel urgently to the Philippines;
2. Medical emergency requiring the OFW and members of his/ her dependent family to travel urgently to the Philippines or another country for medical treatment;
3. OFWs returning to their employers abroad with valid employment contract processed by POEA;
4. Application for ePassport has been filed at Post prior to the application for extension of the passport validity;
5. Presentation of proof of urgency such as death certificate, medical certificate, valid employment contracts processed by POEA or Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) of Post together with plane tickets with confirmed flight details; and
6. Payment of consular fees for extension of passport validity.

In the case of OFWs returning to the Philippines for good and whose work contracts were completed, or those whose residence visas were cancelled by their employers or immigration authorities, and for those who no longer find it necessary to file an application for ePassports, a one-way Travel Document may be issued instead of extending the validity of their passports.

Applications for extension of the validity of passports of persons who will be travelling for visit or tourism purposes only shall not be given due course.

15 May 2012

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