

November 17, 2017

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA ON THE WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

Desirous of entering into an agreement for the enhancement of their bilateral relations;

Seeking to facilitate the travel of the Parties' nationals who are on official mission for their respective Governments;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I
Coverage

This Agreement covers the following types of passports validly issued by the Parties:

- (a) For the Republic of the Philippines; Diplomatic and Official passports.
- (b) For the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka: Diplomatic and Official passports

Article II
Short-Term Visits

Nationals of either Party who are holders of valid diplomatic and official passports are exempted from the obligation to obtain visas for entry and stay in the territory of the other Party, if such stay does not exceed thirty (30) days from the first date of entry or when transiting through that territory on their way to a third state.

The passport used must be valid for not less than six (6) months from the time of entry into the territory of the other Party.

Article III
Extension of Stay for Short-Term Visits

National of both Parties who are holders of passport types mentioned in Article 1 of this Agreement may extend the duration of their stay in the territory of the other Party after the expiration of the period mentioned in Article II, upon written approval of the competent authorities of the other Party in accordance with its laws.

The passport presented must have a validity period of at least six (6) months

beyond the period of allowed extension of stay in the territory of the other Party.

Article IV

Officials on Assignment

Holders of valid diplomatic and official passports of either Party who are assigned in diplomatic missions and consular offices in the territory of the other Party, as well as their spouse and dependent children traveling to live with the principal while the principal continues to be posted on diplomatic and/or consular assignment, shall be required to obtain the appropriate visa before their entry and stay in the territory of the other Party.

For the purposes of this Agreement, 'dependent children' shall refer to biological or legally adopted children of the principal, duly recognized as such by the Sending State who are either:

(a) twenty-one (21) years of age or below, unmarried, not gainfully employed and lives with and is totally dependent on the parents for support;

(b) above twenty-one (21) but not more than twenty-six (26) years of age, provided they are unmarried, not gainfully employed, lives with and is totally dependent on parents for support, and are currently enrolled in an academic institution in the country where the principal is assigned;

(c) regardless of age, incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical disability or condition.

Article V

Compliance with Immigration Regulations

Notwithstanding the exemption from obtaining entry visas for holders of the passport types mentioned in Article I of this Agreement, it is the duty of persons benefiting therefrom to comply with the laws and regulations on entry, stay in and exit from the other Party's territory.

The Parties shall immediately inform each other in writing, through diplomatic channels, of any changes in their respective laws and regulations governing the entry, travel and stay of foreigners.

Article VI

Unauthorized Activities

In all cases holders of diplomatic and official passports, including their qualified dependents and/or family members and private staff shall not engage in any work or remunerated activities inconsistent with their immigration status without securing the appropriate written permission from the competent authorities of the Receiving State.

Article VII

Denial of Admission