



Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Cotabato City



EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
(First Regular Session)

RESOLUTION NO. 576

RESOLUTION STRONGLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY PASSPORT ENROLLMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAPUN AND TURTLE ISLANDS, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI TO CATER TO DISPLACED FILIPINOS AND REPATRIATES FROM SABAH, MALAYSIA.

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Affairs has the mandate to establish passport enrollment centers in any strategic locations within the country and to issue passport and other documents to bonafide Filipino citizens who wish to travel and work abroad;

WHEREAS, many Filipinos have been working in various establishments in Malaysia, particularly in Sabah, where they enjoy the leniency of the government thereat, i.e. staying and working even without passport and employment contracts;

WHEREAS, the recent Sabah stand-off has changed the treatment of the Malaysian authorities towards these Filipino workers, particularly those without passport where they were rounded-off and repatriated back to the Philippines, and many of them were forced to flee for fear of being manhandled and imprisoned;

WHEREAS, the Malaysian authorities are now welcoming back the Filipino displaced workers and repatriates who wish to return to their respective jobs in Sabah, Malaysia, provided, however, that they must have at least a valid passport;

WHEREAS, the nearest passport enrollment center of the Department of Foreign Affairs that provides services to the citizens of the three island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi is located in Zamboanga City;

WHEREAS, many of the citizens of the Province of Tawi-Tawi and neighboring areas in particular find it difficult to travel to Zamboanga City to apply for a passport due to distance and high travel expenses to be incurred for the said purpose;

WHEREAS, the government is mandated to reach out and extend its services to the grassroots level especially the less fortunate and displaced Filipino citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to strongly request the Department of Foreign Affairs to establish temporary Passport Enrollment Centers in the municipalities of Mapun and Turtle Islands, Province of Tawi-Tawi to cater to the Filipino displaced workers and repatriates from Sabah, Malaysia.

ADOPTED, September 2, 2013.

Certified Correct:

DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN
Secretary - General

Attested:

DATU ROONIE Q. SINSUAT
Speaker