



Konsulado Panlahat ng Pilipinas

Philippine Consulate General

Osaka-Kobe

ADVISORY

ON THE USE OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORT AS COLLATERAL FOR PERSONAL LOAN

It has come to the attention of the Philippine Consulate General that there are Filipino nationals who are using the Philippine passport as collateral to secure personal loans from individuals or informal lending institutions in Japan.

The Consulate urges Filipino nationals to refrain from using the Philippine passport as collateral for personal loan because this practice is considered a criminal offense under Philippine laws. Under Sec. 11 of the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 (RA 8239), **"a Philippine passport remains at all times the property of the Government, the holder being a mere possessor thereof as long as it is valid and the same may not be surrendered to any person or entity other than the government or its representative.."**

Any incident involving this matter will be reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The passport of persons involved in such transactions will be subject to cancellation proceedings upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or his duly authorized representative.

The Philippine passport is the primary identification document issued by the Philippine government to Filipino nationals and requesting other governments to allow its citizens to pass safely and freely (Sec. 3d, RA 8239). **Every Filipino has the duty to preserve the integrity of the Philippine passport.**

14 October 2011

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