

28 February 2011 - In an effort to fast-track the issuance of passports of Filipinos who were repatriated due to the political turmoil in the Middle East, the Department of Foreign Affairs Office of Consular Affairs (DFA-OCA) has designated special lanes for them in its main passport office, its 19 regional consular offices (RCOs) and its Passport Extension Office at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

A number of Filipino repatriates left Libya without passports in view of the volatile situation there.

The special lanes for passport processing are seen to help repatriated Filipinos to quickly acquire their passports without passing through the regular appointment system.

The Office of Consular Affairs will only require that Filipino repatriates present the most basic identification and the Travel Documents (TDs) issued to them by Philippine Foreign Service posts.

A travel document is issued for a one-way travel to the Philippines in case a Filipino does not have a valid passport. It contains personal details of the holder and a unique identification number.

Filipino repatriates may appear personally at the DFA Office of Consular Affairs or at a regional consular office nearest them to avail of the service. END