

27 February 2010 - The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) wishes to inform the public that its Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) has started the gradual transfer of its operations to a new building located at the corner of Bradco and Macapagal Avenues in Aseana Business Park, near the Mall of Asia.

The new 7,000-square meter, four-storey building is a few blocks away from the DFA main building.

Authentication services will be transferred to the new building on March 4 (Thursday), while all passport operations will be at said location on March 8 (Monday). On said dates, all new consular and passport applications shall be filed at the new location.

The new building is part of the ongoing modernization program undertaken by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo to further improve the DFA's frontline services which include harnessing new technologies in passport and visa issuances and streamlined procedures in the authentication of documents.

"It is part of our dream for the Filipino people to have a world-class passport and consular services. We have done it through the Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and the ePassport, and now the dream is complete with the new DFA-OCA building," he said.

To ensure quick, comfortable service, passport applicants are advised to check the passport requirements and secure an online appointment at www.dfa.gov.ph (consular tab), or to call the consular help-line number (02-556-0000) or DFA telephone number (02-834-4000). Applications may also be filed with the DFA's 19 Regional Consular and satellite offices. END