# Welcome to the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki

The Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki provides the following consular services in Finland:

- 1. Processing and Issuance of Temporary Visitors Visas to the Philippines
- 2. Legalization (Acknowledgments) of Documents such as Special Powers of Attorney, Affidavits and other Legal and other Legal Instruments for use in the Philippines
- 2. Authenticating official Finnish documents to be used in the Philippines
- 3. Processing for Reports of Births and Marriages for Filipino citizens in Finland
- 4. Issuance of Emergency Travel Documents to Philippine nationals for one-way travel to the Philippines

Apart from these consular services, the Honorary Consulate General also undertakes activities aimed at promoting greater economic, cultural and people-to-people cooperation between the Philippines and Finland.

Please note that the Honorary Consulate General <u>does not</u> process Philippine passport and dual citizenship applications;

The Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki is headed by Philippine Honorary Consul General Jukka Nyrölä and Philippine Honorary Consul Teresita Ruutu.

# **Location and Operating Hours**

The Philippine Consulate General is located at Tarkk'ampujankatu 2 A 6, 2nd floor, 00140 Helsinki (just behind the last stop of tram no. 10.) Door buzzer: Nyrölä

The Honorary Consulate General is open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13.00 to 15.00. However, clients who wish to avail of consular services are advised to book an appointment preferably by email.

Appointments may be made by sending an email to jukka.nyrola@iki.fi or teresita.ruutu@saunalahti.fi . Clients without access to email may also contact telephone numbers +358 40 5009706 (Nyrölä) or +358 40 7071817 (Ruutu) Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 13.00 - 15.00.

#### Reminders

Clients are advised to first check the requirements, prescribed fees and required forms listed on this website before booking an appointment.

Clients are also advised that payment for consular services to be obtained at the Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki must be made to the bank account of the Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki and **not** to the bank account of the Philippine Embassy in Oslo.

Please click on the following links below to learn more about the services provided by the Honorary Consulate General:

Applying for a temporary visitor visa to the Philippines

Legalization of Documents

## Applying for a temporary visitor visa to the Philippines

Finnish citizens and other EU/EEA passport holders who are travelling to the Philippines for short-term business and tourism purposes are allowed to enter the Philippines without visa for a stay not exceeding thirty (30) days, provided that they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination and their passports are valid for a period of at least six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay.

Those who are intending to stay in the Philippines longer than thirty (30) days need to apply for a Philippine visa and may file their application at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki.

How to Apply for a 9(a) Tourist Visa at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General (For Finnish and other EU/EAA citizens; for other nationalities, click here)

- 1. Application may be made either in person or by mail. Applicants are advised to submit their applications at least three (3) weeks before their intended date of departure to ensure that they receive their visas prior to their journey.
- Processing of visa applications takes an average of five (5) working days after the receipt of COMPLETE requirements. The Honorary Consulate General will not process incomplete visa applications.
- 3. Applicants need to fill up the visa application form. The form may be downloaded below. Click <u>here</u> to download the visa application form.
- 4. Together with the duly-accomplished form, submit the following additional requirements:
  - Original Passport which is valid for at least six (6) months beyond the intended period of stay in the Philippines;
  - One (1) 4.5 x 3.5 cm color or black and white photograph taken within the past six months (attached to the application form);
  - Copy of travel itinerary or confirmed flight details in the Philippines (including return or onward journey to the next port of destination);
    and
  - Payment of Visa Fee by Bank Transfer or in Cash (if applying in person)
- 5. Types of Temporary Visitor Visas
  - Single-entry, three months validity This type of visa may be used <u>once within three</u> <u>months from the date of issue</u> to enter the Philippines for the purpose of tourism/business.
  - Multiple-entry, six months validity This type of visa may be used <u>multiple times within six</u> months from the date of issue to enter the Philippines for the purpose of tourism/business.
  - Multiple-entry, 12months validity This type of visa may be used <u>multiple times within one</u> year from the date of issue to enter the Philippines for the purpose of tourism/business.

Please note that <u>all</u> temporary visitor visas allow an initial authorized stay of up to 59 days only. Even if you hold a six-month valid visa, your initial authorized stay will still be 59 days.

The six or 12 month validity simply means that a temporary visitor may have several entries to the Philippines during the visa validity but each visit is limited to 59 days, unless extended by locally by a Philippine Immigration office.

## 6. Visa fees at the Philippine Consulate General in Helsinki

- Single-entry visa valid for three months € 27.00
- Multiple-entry visa valid for six months € 54.00
- Multiple-entry visa valid for one year €81.00

Payments may be made in cash, if filing in person, or via bank transfer to the Consulate General a.h. of the Philippines, Nordea Bank, Account number FI27 1820 3000 0363 43

Please <u>do not</u> send payments to the account of the Philippine Embassy in Oslo if you are using the services of the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki as payments made to the Embassy's bank account can only be credited towards consular services obtained at the Embassy in Oslo.

## 7. Processing Time / Expedite Service

The normal processing time for issuance of visas at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General is five working days from the receipt of the application. Those who file their applications in person may also avail of the expedite service of three working days. Expedite service requires an additional payment of  $\leqslant$  9.00 and may not be available at all times. Please check with the Honorary Consulate General upon filing of the application.

#### 8. Mailing Service

Applicants who wish to receive their processed passports by mail are advised to enclose a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope which will be used by the Honorary Consulate General to send back their passports. Alternatively, applicants can also pay an additional € 6.00 to cover the mailing charges of their passport within Finland.

#### **Legaalization of Documents**

The Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki, performs its authentication/legalization function/services in the context of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Given the existence of a multi-state system, aforesaid Convention stipulates that, among other things, the various kind of documents sourced from particular sovereign states (e.g. public documents, private documents, and commercial documents) shall have validity or operative effect in another sovereign state's legal jurisdiction after subjected to an agreed upon authentication procedure.

Any legal document issued in Finland must be authenticated or acknowledged ('consularized') by the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki in order for that document to have any legal validity in the Philippines.

#### A. Authentication

# <u>Instructions on Authentication of Notarized Documents, Commercial Documents and Civil Registry Documents for use in the Philippines</u>

Persons applying for authentication/legalization of legal documents at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki may do it in person or by post.

The following are the steps to be followed:

- 1. The applicant must first have the original document/s (and its English translation, if the document is written entirely in Finnish) notarized by a notary public at the Finnish Local Register Office or *Maistraatti*. (Note: Original documents issued by a Finnish state authority can be signed by its official and need not go through a notary public. These can be brought directly to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (see step no. 2)
- 2. The applicant then sends or submits the document/s to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Consular Services / Legalizations) which certifies the signature of the Notary Public or state official.
- 3. After the Foreign Ministry certifies the signature, the document is then brought to the Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki for Authentication. The applicant shall submit the original document (with the stamp from the Finnish Foreign Ministry) together with one (1) photocopy for the Embassy's file. The authentication fee is € 22,50 per document. Upon receipt of the document/s and the corresponding payment, the Honorary Consulate General will issue the needed Certificate of Authentication (red ribbon).

The document will then be ready for official use in the Philippines.

Note: Authentication of legal documents notarized in the Philippines or issued by Civil Registry Officials in the Philipines (such as CENOMARS) must be certified first by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in the Philippines. It should then be authenticated by the Finnish Consular Officer in Manila, which is the preferred way, or by the Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki in order for that document to have legal validity in Finland.

The contact details for the Consular Officer in the Philippines are:

Mari Alapartanen, Consular Officer E-mail: mari.alapartanen@formin.fi

Consular Office of Finland/Royal Norwegian Embassy

21st Floor, Petron Mega Plaza Building

358 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, 1209 Makati City

## **B.** Acknowledgment

Instructions on the Acknowledgment of Private Legal Documents (e.g. Affidavits, Special Powers of Attorney) Executed by Applicants for use in the Philippines

Private Legal Documents, such as Affidavits, Deeds of Sale and Special Powers of Attorney (SPA), for use in the Philippines may also be notarized/acknowledged at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki if the applicant appears in person at the Honorary Consulate General and signs the document in the presence of the Honorary Consular Officer.

The following are the steps to be followed:

- 1. The applicant must personally prepare his/her own affidavit or Special Power of Attorney (SPA).
- 2. The applicant must secure an appointment with the Consulate General and personally bring the legal document to the Consulate. The applicant signs the legal document in the presence of the Philippine Honorary Consular Officer and shows proof of identity with a valid, government-issued identification document (preferably a valid Philippine or Finnish passport).

3. The applicant shall submit the original document together with one (1) photocopy for the Embassy's file, copy of the valid passport or ID and pay the consular fee of € 22,50 per document. Upon receipt of the document/s and the corresponding payment, the Consulate will issue the needed Certificate of Acknowledgment (red ribbon) for the legal document.

The document will then be ready for official use in the Philippines.

Note: Applicants who execute Affidavits, SPAs or other legal documents but cannot personally appear at the Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki may still have their documents consularized at the Honorary Consulate General by mail. However, they need to follow the authentication of notarized documents process discussed above by having these documents notarized first by a Maistraatti and then certified by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (see Section A. Authentication).

# C. General Terms for Authentications and Acknowledgements

Processing Time / Expedite Service

The normal processing time for authentications and acknowledgments of official and private legal documents at the Philippine Honorary Consulate General is three working days from the receipt of the application. Those who file their applications in person may also avail of the expedite same-day service. Expedite service requires an additional payment of  $\leqslant$  9.00 and, depending on work volume, may not be available at all times. Please check with the Honorary Consulate General upon filing of the application.

#### Mailing Service

Applicants who wish to receive their processed documents by mail are advised to enclose a self-addressed envelope with stamps sending back the documents. Alternatively, applicants can also pay an additional € 6.00 to their payment to cover mailing charges within Finland.

#### **Payments**

Payments may be made in cash if filing the application in person or sent via bank transfer to the Consulate General a.h. of the Philippines Nordea Bank, Account number FI27 1820 3000 0306 43

Please <u>do not</u> send payments to the account of the Philippine Embassy in Oslo if you are availing of the services of the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Helsinki as payments made to the Embassy's bank account can only be credited towards consular services obtained at the Embassy in Oslo.

## C. Other Reports

Reports of Marriage, Reports of Birth and Reports of Death can be filed with the Honorary Consulate General. Further instructions can be given upon request.