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Republic of the Philippines  
Office of the Civil Registrar General  
National Statistics Office  
EDSA corner Times St.  
West Triangle, Quezon City 1104

Ref. No. 997000-0184  
(Please cite in your reply.)

22 April 1999

## MEMORANDUM

For : The Passport Division, DFA  
All Foreign Embassies

Subject : ACCEPTANCE OF CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY  
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICES

This Office issues more or less 10,000 certifications a day. Roughly 80% of these certifications are done in security paper (SECPA) which are required by your Office from applicants of passport and visa. Several thousands of people come to our Office daily because it is only our Office that issues certifications in SECPA. While we appreciate the preference of your Office to honor the certifications issued by us in SECPA, we came to a point where we are forced to operate under tremendous strain. Our physical and human resources are stretched to the limit, and we could not serve effectively and efficiently anymore the great number of people coming to us daily.

In view of the foregoing, and in order to bring down the number of people to a more reasonable level, considering our present resources, we would like to request your Office to start accepting certifications issued by local civil registry offices (LCROs) even if not done in SECPA. If there are certifications issued by LCROs which are suspiciously spurious, the same can be submitted to us by your Office for verification or for authentication, and we will call the attention of the concerned LCRO.

We hope that this proposition will be acceptable to your Office.

  
TOMAS P. AFRICA  
Civil Registrar General

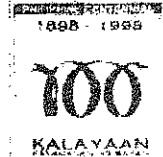
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Copy furnished:

All Regional Administrators  
All Provincial Statistics Officers  
All City/Municipal Civil Registrars



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

11 June 1999

S 11

This has reference to your Memorandum dated 22 April 1999 requesting the Passport Division to accept certifications issued by the local civil registry offices (LCROs) even if not copied on SECPA.

We would like to inform you that the Office of Consular Affairs particularly the Passport Division has desisted from accepting LCR issued birth, marriage and death certificates as a result of previous experiences of rampant submission of spurious certifications from different municipalities. There are also instances where accredited agencies are in possession of blank certifications signed by the Local Civil Registrar ready for submission to the Passport Division. More alarming is the fact that there are local government officials who could easily change/alter the original entries in the civil registry records upon request by the concerned person.

Requiring documents from your Office is in consonance with the Department's obligation to ensure that passports are issued to legitimate persons with authentic documents only. This Office is of the opinion that the genuineness of the documents submitted by passport applicants has to be fully ascertained since the Department is at present preparing for the implementation of Machine Readable Passport/Visa Project (MRPV).

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

*Ma. Corazon Yap-Bahjin*  
MA. CORAZON YAP-BAHJIN  
Acting Assistant Secretary

MR. TOMAS P. AFRICA  
Civil Registrar General  
National Statistics Office  
EDSA corner Times St.  
West Triangle, Quezon City

OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

11 June 1999

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*has stopped accepted*

We would like to inform you that the Office of Consular Affairs particularly the Passport Division ~~refrains~~ from accepting LCR issued birth, marriage and death certificates as a result of previous experiences of rampant submission of spurious certifications from different municipalities. There are also instances when some accredited agencies ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> in possession of blank certifications signed by the Local Civil Registrar. ~~Not to mention~~ the fact that there are local government officials who could easily change/alter the original entries in the civil registry records upon request by the concerned person.

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*policy obligation*

*only*

*certained*

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

MA. CORAZON YAP-BAHJIN  
Acting Assistant Secretary

*JUN 11 1999*

MR. TOMAS P. AFRICA  
Civil Registrar General  
National Statistics Office  
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