

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – NOTARIAL SERVICES

## Re-Acquisition, Renunciation, and Other Notarial Services

### RENUNCIATION

**Q: I intend to renounce my Philippine citizenship as a pre-requisite for naturalization as Taiwan national. Do I need to present to MECO my Certificate of Naturalization from the Taiwan Household Registration Office?**

A: Yes. We require the presentation of the English version of the Certificate of Naturalization from the Household Registration Office. However, the Certificate need not be notarized and authenticated in so far as the application for Renunciation of Philippine citizenship is concerned.

**Q: What are the consequences of renouncing my Philippine citizenship?**

A: Upon express and voluntary renunciation, Philippine citizenship is given up. Under the laws of the Philippines, the individual has effectively lost his/her citizenship and is no longer deemed a Filipino. S/he will no longer be entitled to the rights and privileges previously enjoyed as a Filipino, and the following prohibitions shall now apply to him/her:

1. S/he cannot purchase/own/be a transferee of land in the Philippines in excess of 1,000 square meters of urban land or one hectare of rural land for residential purposes, or in excess of 5000 square meters of urban land or three hectares of rural land for business purposes;
2. S/he cannot participate in the elections, whether as a candidate or as a voter;
3. S/he cannot hold a Philippine passport and entry to the Philippines is not guaranteed;
4. S/he cannot seek direct assistance from MECO as only Filipinos are entitled to the same.

**Q: I am a natural-born Filipino and I need to renounce my citizenship as a pre-requisite for Taiwan naturalization. After I renounce my Philippine citizenship, will I no longer have the option to be a Filipino again in the future?**

A: With the passing of Republic Act No. 9225, natural-born Filipinos who have lost their citizenship by reason of their naturalization as foreign nationals can become a Filipino through the process of Requisition/Renunciation of Philippine Citizenship.

**Q: How much will I spend for the Renunciation of my Philippine citizenship?**

A: Processing fees shall depend on the circumstances of the person renouncing his/her Philippine citizenship. Please see our schedule of fees [here](#) to approximate the costs.

### REACQUISITION

**Q: In my application for the Reacquisition of my Philippine citizenship, do I need to have my Certificate of Naturalization from the Household Registration Office authenticated?**

A: Yes. For purposes of the application for the Reacquisition of Philippine citizenship, the five (5) copies of the Certificate of Naturalization from the Household Registration Office need to be notarized by a Taiwan Notary Public and authenticated by Taiwan's Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA, MOCA).

**Q: I previously obtained a Certificate of Naturalization from the Household Registration Office for the renunciation of my Philippine citizenship. Now that I am applying for the reacquisition of my Philippine citizenship, can I use the same Certificate of Naturalization in my application?**

A: Yes. The same English version of the Certificate of Naturalization presented for the application for Renunciation of Philippine citizenship may be used in the application for the Reacquisition of your Philippine citizenship. Five (5) copies of the Certificate of Naturalization shall be submitted and the same should be notarized by the same Taiwan Notary Public and the same officer from the Taiwan Bureau of Consular Affairs (BOCA, MOFA). The notary public, the seal/stamp of the relevant district court, and the authenticating officer of the Taiwan Bureau of Consular Affairs should be consistent across all the sets of documents.

**Q: How much will I spend for the Reacquisition of my Philippine citizenship?**

A: Processing fees shall depend on the circumstances of the person reacquiring his/her Philippine citizenship. Please see our schedule of fees [here](#) to approximate the costs.

## **NOTARIAL and OTHER SERVICES**

**Q: In executing my affidavit, special power of attorney, or other forms, should I use my Philippine or Taiwan address?**

A: For documents to be notarized in Taiwan, the signatory's address in Taiwan should be reflected.

**Q: How long is my Special Power of Attorney (SPA) valid?**

A: The SPA shall be valid until the purposes of the same have been accomplished. However, agencies or offices in the Philippines may require an up-to-date SPA before the agent can process transactions on behalf of the principal. To be sure, it is recommended to confirm with the relevant agency/office in the Philippines if the SPA will still be acceptable based on their standards.

**Q: I am a holder of a valid Philippine driver's license and I want to drive here in Taiwan but I do not have an international license. How do I go about this?**

A: A holder of a valid Philippine driver's license should inquire first with the Motor Vehicle's Office (MVO) to confirm the requirements for the issuance of a Taiwan driver's license. Should the Taiwan MVO allow the conversion of the valid Philippine Driver's License as verified by MECO, we can verify the authenticity of the Philippine Driver's License upon submission of the following:

1. Philippine Driver's License that is valid for at least one (1) month and four (4) photocopies, front and back in one (1) page;
2. Official Receipt of the Driver's License and two (2) photocopies;
3. Valid Philippine Passport and two (2) photocopies of the data page; and
4. Taiwan Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) and two (2) photocopies, front and back in one (1) page.

**Q: Can MECO convert my Philippine driver's license to Taiwan driver's license?**

A: No. Conversion to Taiwan driver's license is under the authority and discretion of the Taiwan Motor Vehicle Office. MECO can only verify a Philippine driver's license but cannot convert the same for use in Taiwan.

**Q: I have a Philippine driver's license, but I don't have a physical card yet. Can I have my license verified?**

A: No. As of the moment, MECO can only verify the authenticity of a physical driver's license card.

**Q: I have a valid Philippine driver's license, but I lost the receipt for it. Can I still have my license verified?**

A: Yes. A copy of the Official Receipt can be downloaded from the LTMS Online Portal of the Land Transportation Office (LTO). However, if there is no record of the receipt in the LTMS Online Portal, a Certification issued by the LTO bearing the details of the license can be presented instead.

**Q: Can I get a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clearance from MECO?**

A: No. MECO can only assist with the fingerprinting on the required form. The application and issuance of the NBI clearance shall still be processed with the NBI in the Philippines.

**Q: I cannot go home to the Philippines to process my NBI clearance, but I already did the fingerprinting at MECO. What should I do next?**

A: After fingerprinting, the applicant should execute a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) in favor of his/her acquaintance/agent who shall be responsible for the processing of the NBI clearance in the Philippines. The execution and notarization of your SPA can both be done in MECO. Your notarized SPA and the fingerprinting card should be sent to the Philippines to the person whom you authorized.