

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 735

Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5 of the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed."

In pursuance of this Constitutional mandate, the State shall guarantee the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions, giving them the opportunity to contribute to nation building.

Muslim Filipinos observe traditional rites to honor and bury their dead, including funeral procession and mourning practices. They observe the *Sunna*, which is the rigid conduct of Islam, as their tradition for festivals and ceremonies for the dead.

In Mindanao, the *kubul* (grave) are found in lots allotted by their families or found in the garden of their family home. In Metro Manila, a cemetery located in Signal Village, Taguig, is provided for Muslim Filipinos but the area is limited to accommodate those coming from other parts of Metro Manila. At present, Muslim Filipinos still have difficulty in burying their dead, more often they have to transport the cadaver to their native place in Mindanao.

This proposed measure seeks to provide a common cemetery for Muslim Filipinos by establishing a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in Metro Manila to preserve the sanctity of Islam belief and culture in honoring the dead.

In consideration of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Syjucó".

JUDY J. SYJUCO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MUSLIM FILIPINO CEMETERY IN METRO MANILA, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to ensure the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions, as well as to further ensure their contribution to national goals and aspirations and to make them active participants in nation building.

SECTION 2. Establishment of a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in Metro Manila. There shall be established a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in Metro Manila to be identified and coordinated by the Office of the Muslim Affairs (OMA).

The Office of the Muslim Affairs (OMA) shall coordinate with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to identify appropriate location for the said purpose. The OMA and the MMDA shall designate a technical working group to formulate an implementation plan for the project.

SECTION 3. Appropriation. The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION . This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,