

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1593



Introduced by Representative Faysah RPM Dumarpa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When a Muslim dies, Islam enjoins the burial of the corpse before the next prayer. No embalming is permitted but the remains shall be cleansed, including major orifices. The practice of burying a dead Muslim and other traditional rites in honor of a dead Muslim, including funeral procession and mourning practices are part of the so-called Sunna as enshrined in the Holy Qur'an and the prophetic traditions.

With this, the Muslims in Metro Manila are faced with a dilemma, *where to bury their dead*. The only cemetery available is that located at Signal Village, Taguig, but the area is limited as to accommodate those coming from other parts of Metro Manila or even those within the locality. As such, they are forced to transport their cadaver to their native place in Mindanao which is rather expensive and time-consuming. Few are confined to the possibility of burying their dead in other cemetery that is against their belief and culture.

To answer this problem, this proposed bill seeks to provide an additional cemetery for Muslim Filipinos by establishing a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in Metro Manila to preserve the sanctity of Islamic beliefs and culture in honoring the dead.

The passage of this bill is in pursuance to the Constitutional mandate that 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. It is further provided by Section 5 of the Bill of Rights that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference shall forever be allowed.

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


FAYSAH RPM DUMARPA

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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 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 on Muslim Affairs (OMA).

The Office on 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 4. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen days (15) days following its complete publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,