

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3615



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Introduced by Reps. JOEL G. VIRADOR, TEODORO A. CASIÑO, SATUR C. OCAMPO,  
LIZA L. MAZA, CRISPIN B. BELTRAN, RAFAEL V. MARIANO

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Economic difficulties and the continuing armed strife in the South have resulted to massive dislocation and forced migration of our Muslim brothers and sisters from Mindanao to other parts of the country, especially in Metro Manila.

It is estimated that some 100,000 Muslims currently reside and congregate in communities in Metro Manila and in neighbouring towns, engaged in various forms of livelihood.

Our Muslim brethren follow a set of cultural and religious customs, particularly in honouring their dead. Religious tradition disallows them from simply burying their dead in cemeteries originally and principally devoted to the Christian public. However, the only Muslim cemetery in the vicinity of Metro Manila is located in Signal Village, in Taguig. Thus, Muslims in Metro Manila have often resorted to the difficult and expensive process of transporting the remains of their deceased to their provinces of origin. Also, in accordance with Muslim beliefs, their dead should be buried within 24 hours.

It is the policy of the State to accord respect for the religion of its peoples, and allow the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference. Consistent with this policy, it becomes the obligation of the State to provide burial sites for its Muslim citizens.

This Bill seeks to establish an Islamic cemetery in Barangay San Isidro, in Rodriguez, Rizal. The necessity of establishing an Islamic Cemetery has been recognized by the local government of Rodriguez. Through its Office of Muslim Affairs, the municipal government of Rodriguez has committed to provide the necessary land for the proposed burial site.

The initiative has already been laid out. It is now time for the national government to partake in this endeavour.

  
Rep. JOEL G. VIRADOR  
Bayan Muna Partylist  
Principal Author

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN ISLAMIC CEMETERY IN BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO, RODRIGUEZ,  
RIZAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

*Section 1. Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the “Rodriguez Islamic Cemetery Act of 2004.”

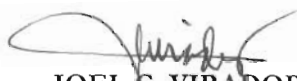
*Section 2. Purpose* – This Act aims to provide our Muslim brothers and sisters in Metro Manila and nearby provinces a decent burial site and memorial park for their deceased relatives, in accordance with their religious customs and practices.

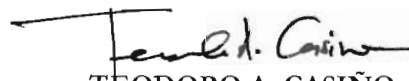
*Section 3. Funding* – The House of Representatives, having been vested with the power to appropriate funds for all government spending by the Constitution, is hereby mandated to appropriate funds for the construction of the Rodriguez Islamic Cemetery and for its future operations.

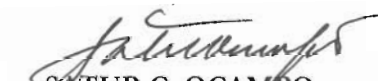
*Section 4. Implementation* – The construction of an Islamic Cemetery in the Municipality of Rodriguez, Rizal shall commence after the passage of this law and after the Department of Budget and Management has allocated the necessary funds for its construction by virtue of the appropriations made by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

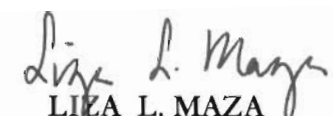
*Section 5. Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*

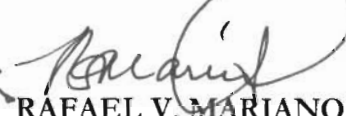
  
JOEL G. VIRADOR  
Bayan Muna Party-List

  
TEODORO A. CASIÑO  
Bayan Muna Party-List

  
SATUR C. OCAMPO  
Bayan Muna Party-List

  
LIZA L. MAZA  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
CRISPIN B. BELTRAN  
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RAFAEL V. MARIANO  
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