

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4243**



Introduced by **Hon. Hussin U. Amin**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is experiencing a relative peace in the past months. Its people are busy rebuilding what was left to them after the area was ravaged by war and series of armed conflicts. But with the forthcoming elections, people are again beginning to feel restless and anxious.

Elections are healthy democratic exercises. They are never meant to disrupt peace nor do they meant violence. However, experience show that elections in this country have become synonymous to disunity and violence. This is particularly so with the system of elections which failed to modernize despite a law mandating for such automation and modernization. Election violence is most feared in the ARMM elections as it threatens to divide the ARMM population and disrupt the relative peace presently enjoyed in the area at this critical period when we all need unity and peace.

The country cannot afford to have another divisive activity such as an election or even discussions which tend to further divide the country

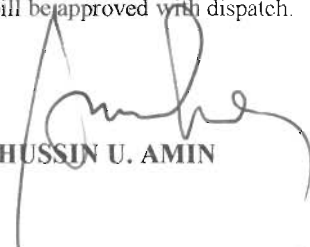
Apart from concerns on the dangers of disturbing the political stability, unity and peace in the area, the monetary requirements of holding an election is also a matter of utmost concern. Any budgetary allocation for the holding of another election at this time of crisis must be put on hold.

It is for the above considerations that it is important to fix the date of the elections of the ARMM on the second Monday of May, 2007. The clear object is to have the ARMM elections synchronized with the local and national elections beginning on the midterm elections in 2007. This way, we maintain the relative political stability for at least 3 years at the same time saving millions of pesos for the economy.

Holding another elections at this time is not only divisive but also so costly considering that the country is reeling from an economic crisis. It is estimated that the government has to spend more than 200 million pesos for the ARMM elections. Such amount could well be used for the much needed social services for the ARMM and for other depressed areas in the country.

Furthermore, the move of the present administration to undertake the discussions on charter change early next year may have a great impact on the ARMM.

Considering the above, it is most respectfully prayed that this bill be approved with dispatch.


HUSSIN U. AMIN

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AN ACT

SYNCHRONIZING THE DATE OF THE REGULAR ELECTIONS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9333 ENTITLED "AN ACT FIXING THE DATE OF REGULAR ELECTION FOR ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF ARMM PURSUANT TO RA 9054 ENTITLED "AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR ARMM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 6734 ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ORGANIC ACT FOR THE ARMM AS AMENDED.

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

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. No. 9333 and for the purpose of synchronization of the elections, the regular elections for elective officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall be held on the second Monday of May 2007. Succeeding elections shall be held every three (3) years thereafter.

SECTION 2. The term of office of the regional governor, regional vice-governor and members of the regional legislative assembly shall commence at noon of the 30th day of June 2007 next following their election and shall end at noon of the 30th day of June three (3) years thereafter.

SECTION 3. The incumbent officials of the ARMM, upon the expiration of their term of office on September 30, 2005, shall continue to hold office until the President of the Republic of the Philippines shall have appointed officials for the ARMM who shall serve until June 30, 2007.

SECTION 4. If any of the provisions of this Act is held unconstitutional, provisions not affected shall remain valid and binding.

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees and all other issuance or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President.

Approved.