

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3894



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL DELOSO-MONTALLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5 of the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine 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 thereby 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 of their traditional festival and ceremony for the dead.

In Mindanao, the *kubul* (grave) is found in lots allotted by the Muslim Filipino family as burial site for their demised family member. At times, this may be found in the garden of their family home. At present, Muslim Filipinos in the Province of Zambales still have difficulty in burying their dead. They often have to transport their dead to their native place in Mindanao for their repose.

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

It is in this light that this bill is being filed and immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHERYL DELOSO MONTALLA
Representative
2nd District, Zambales

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MUSLIM FILIPINO CEMETERY IN THE PROVINCE OF
ZAMBALES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 the Province of Zambales. A Muslim Filipino Cemetery is hereby established in the Province of Zambales which shall be identified by the National Commission on Muslim Affairs (NCMA).

SECTION 3. Location of the Muslim Filipino Cemetery. The NCMA shall coordinate with the concerned local government unit in the identification of the appropriate location for the said Muslim Filipino Cemetery. The NCMA shall within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act form a technical working group to formulate an implementation plan for the said cemetery.

SECTION 4. Maintenance and Operation of the Cemetery. The maintenance and operation of the said cemetery shall be under the direct supervision and control of the NCMA or its future derivative.

SECTION 5. Appropriation. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,