

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4784



Introduced by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The annual pilgrimage of Muslim Filipinos to Mecca, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the primary programs handled by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos. As one of the Pillars of Islam, the annual Hajj witnesses tremendous number of pilgrims flocking to Mecca. The Hajj program of the NCMF is offered to deserving Filipino Muslims who wishes to fulfill their duty to Islam.

Through the years, there were reports that some of our Filipino Muslims fall prey to human trafficking activities. And the Hajj program of the NCMF can be exploited by human traffickers if the government will not strengthen the programs that will safeguard our pilgrims. Thus, it is this bill's objective to strengthen the NCMF in providing protection as well as formulate policies of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) in relation to the Hajj pilgrimage of our Muslim Filipinos. This bill also aims to provide the easy coordination between the different agencies involved with regard to human trafficking as well as repatriation of trafficking and undocumented victims, specifically our Muslim Filipino pilgrims.

With these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte

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3 **AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM**
4 **FILIPINOS AND AMMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
5 **9997 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM**
6 **FILIPINOS ACT OF 2009**
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*
9

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 11 (e) of Republic Act 9997 is hereby amended to read as follows:
11

12 “(e) Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment. – This Bureau shall be
13 primary responsible for the administration of the annual Muslim
14 pilgrimage to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the formulation and
15 implementation of programs, projects and activities for the efficient and
16 effective administration of the conduct of pilgrimage activities. *Provided,*
17 *That the supervision accorded the Bureau under this section shall not*
18 *include control.*

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20 Xxx

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28 Xxx

1 The Bureau shall also be responsible for the safety and well-being of
2 the pilgrims, and ensure that they will be protected from exploitation and
3 human trafficking activities. The Bureau shall coordinate and submit the
4 list of pilgrims to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)
5 to ensure the protection of the pilgrims from human trafficking. The
6 Bureau shall also be a member-agency of the Inter-Agency Council Against
7 Trafficking to formulate policies and regulations with regard the annual
8 Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.”
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10 **SECTION 2.** Section 16 of Republic Act 9997 is hereby amended to read as follows:
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12 “Section 16. Amirul Hajj. – The President of the Philippines shall
13 appoint the Secretary of the Commission as the Amirul Hajj who shall
14 serve as the representative of the President and as the head of the Muslim
15 Filipino pilgrims who will attend the annual Hajj.
16

17 In addition, the Secretary of the Commission shall also serve as the
18 representative of the Commission to the Inter-Agency Council Against
19 Trafficking (IACAT) as an *ex-officio* member.”
20

21 **SECTION 2.** The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos as well as the Inter-Agency
22 Council Against Trafficking shall include in their budget the funds necessary for the
23 implementation of this Act.
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25 **SECTION 3.** Section 11 (e) and Section 16 of Republic Act 9997, otherwise known as the
26 “National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009”, as amended, and all other laws,
27 executive orders, and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are
28 hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.
29

30 **SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen days following the completion of its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
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33 Approved,
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