

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9413



Introduced by REP. SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9997 provides that the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos or NCMF shall:

*"Administer all programs, projects and activities, formulate the necessary rules and regulations, and coordinate with pertinent offices to ensure the success of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."*¹

The law also created the Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment which provides that:²

"(e) Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment. - This Bureau shall be primarily responsible for the administration of the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the formulation and implementation of programs, projects and activities for the efficient and effective administration and supervision of the conduct of pilgrimage activities: Provided, That the supervision accorded the Bureau under this section shall not include control.

"Pursuant to the above responsibilities, the Bureau shall formulate the necessary guidelines to ensure the timely processing of

¹ Paragraph (q), Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9997.

² Paragraph (e), Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9997.

the pilgrim's travel documents and the equitable and reasonable collection of fees. Such collection shall be limited to mutawiff and passporting and/or processing fees only. Collected fees shall be deposited in a special trust fund which shall be established by the Commission, the expenses from which shall be subject to existing auditing laws, rules and regulations.

“The pilgrims shall be accorded free choice of travel agencies and airlines or other means of transportation to and from the site of pilgrimage: Provided, That pilgrims comply with the prescribed arrival and departure schedule fixed by the Ministry of Hajj of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Provided, further, That all pilgrims shall be legitimate holders of round- trip tickets to and from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Provided, furthermore, That the pilgrims shall be free to choose on where to purchase or acquire other logistics, materials and supplies for the pilgrimage.

“In no instance shall the pilgrims be forced to purchase such logistics, materials and supplies from the Commission or its authorized agents or representatives.

“The Bureau shall also accredit qualified and deserving sheikhs. It shall also formulate, subject to the approval of the Commission, the timetable of annual Hajj activities which must be posted in all areas accessible to Muslim Filipinos.

“The Bureau shall likewise be responsible for the administration of awqaf properties and institutions, and the conduct of research and studies for the establishment and maintenance of Hajj towns, Islamic centers and awqaf projects.”

In spite of the creation of the Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment and the provision of its powers, duties and responsibilities, Filipino Hajj pilgrims still encounter problems such as delay in the release of Hajj visas, delayed flights to and from Saudi Arabia, poor accommodation, inefficient transportation services, and delayed and insufficient food services, among others.

In this connection, this Bill seeks to allow Filipino Hajj pilgrims to register directly with the Ministry of Hajj and Umra of Saudi Arabia, pay

their *mutawiff*, passporting and/or processing fees. They shall also be allowed to choose and book their flights: Provided that they comply with the prescribed arrival and departure schedule fixed by the Ministry of Hajj of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They shall be allowed to directly book and pay for they hotel accommodation, food services, and tent accommodation. The pilgrims shall also have the right to choose and directly purchase their logistics, materials, and other supplies for the pilgrimage.

Early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



SITTIE SHAHARA “BAI DIMPLE” I. MASTURA

Representative

*Lone District of Maguindanao del Norte
with Cotabato City*

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Introduced by REP. SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT

ALLOWING FILIPINO HAJJ PILGRIMS TO DIRECTLY REGISTER WITH THE MINISTRY OF HAJJ AND UMRA OF SAUDI ARABIA, BOOK AND PAY FOR THEIR FLIGHTS, ACCOMMODATION, AND OTHER SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNUAL HAJJ TO MECCA

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 9997 otherwise known as the "National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009," Muslim Filipino Hajj pilgrims shall be allowed to register directly with the Ministry of Hajj and Umra of Saudi Arabia and pay their *mutawiff*, passporting and/or processing fees.

SEC. 2. Muslim Filipino Hajj pilgrims shall also be allowed to choose and book their flights: Provided that they comply with the

prescribed arrival and departure schedule fixed by the Ministry of Hajj of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SEC. 3. Muslim Filipino Hajj Pilgrims shall also be allowed to directly book and pay for their hotel accommodation, food services, and tent accommodation. They shall also have the right to choose and directly purchase their logistics, materials, and other supplies for the pilgrimage.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,