

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11428



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE I SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9997 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS ACT OF 2009"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 9997, the law that created the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos was passed in 2009 in order to ensure that there is a government body that preserves and develops the culture, tradition, institutions, and well-being of Muslim Filipinos, in conformity with the country's laws and in consonance with national unity and development.

Section 5 of said law specifically mentioned that the Commission shall be composed of nine (9) full-time members who are Muslim Filipinos, with one Commissioner coming from the women, youth, and Ulama sectors.

To strengthen the NCMF's inclusivity and ensure broader representation, this bill proposes an amendment to include one Commissioner from the Balik-Islam community. This term, "Balik-Islam", is from a Filipino word "balik," meaning "return". This is a collective term used to refer to individuals who have returned to Islam, the one they consider as the original religion of mankind.

A comprehensive study conducted by the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies in 2023 has highlighted the various challenges faced by the Balik-Islam community, which can range from personal, familial, and community-related concerns.

To ensure that the voices of the Balik-Islam are represented within the NCMF, this measure seeks to amend Section 5 of RA 9997 to include one Commissioner from the Balik-Islam community.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Representative, 2nd District of Pampanga

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

Section 1. Article I Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9997 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Composition of the Commission.* — The Commission shall be composed of nine (9) full-time members who are Muslim Filipinos and shall be headed by a Secretary: *Provided*, That one (1) of the Commissioners shall come from the women sector, one (1) from the youth sector, [and] another Commissioner shall come from the Ulama sector, AND ONE (1) FROM THE BALIK-ISLAM : *Provided, further*, That not more than two (2) Commissioners shall come from the same Muslim Filipino tribe at any given time, to

ensure a more equitable representation in the Commission. The President shall appoint the regular members of the Commission. The Commissioners shall be academic degree holders and must speak and write fluently the English and/or Arabic languages. They shall be individuals who possess the highest, degree of integrity and have the endorsement of their respective tribes or sectors.

XXX"

Sec. 2. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,