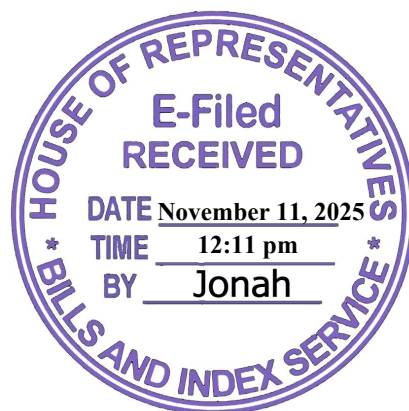




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5817



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA “BAI DIMPLE” I. MASTURA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11550 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE PROVINCES OF MAGUINDANAO DEL NORTE AND MAGUINDANAO DEL SUR, PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE CAPITAL TOWN AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO DEL NORTE FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN KUDARAT

This bill seeks to transfer the designated capital town and seat of government of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte from the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat to the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat by amending Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11550 otherwise known as the “Charter of the Provinces of Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur”.

Since the enactment of RA 11550 on May 27, 2021, the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat has been recognized as the de facto seat of the provincial government due to its strategic location and accessibility to all of the municipalities within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte.

On July 24, 2025, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan adopted Resolution No. 2025-007 formally recognizing the establishment of satellite offices of the provincial government in the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat and has identified properties within its jurisdiction for the establishment of the provincial government center, effectively affirming its current role as the functional seat of the provincial government.

Finally, on August 6, 2025, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 2025-009 was adopted, thus this proposal to amend Section 5 of RA1550, an initiative that aims to institutionalize the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat as the capital town and seat of government of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte.

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



SITTIE SHAHARA "BAT DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City, Lone District



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

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11550, otherwise known as the “Charter of the Provinces of Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 5. Capital Towns and Seats of Government. – The capital towns and seats of government of the provinces of Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur shall be the municipalities of [Datu Odin Sinsuat] **SULTAN KUDARAT** and Buluan, respectively.”

SEC. 2. Upon the effectivity of this Act, the present Provincial Capital located in the Municipality of Datu Odin Sinsuat shall be transferred to the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Maguindanao del Norte where all the provincial offices shall be established.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.