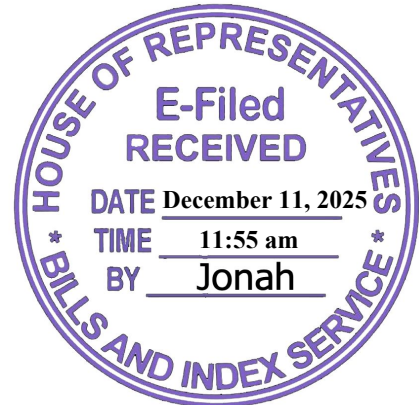




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6793



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

AN ACT

AMENDING ARTICLE 1 SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9997 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS ACT OF 2009”, TO INCLUDE ONE (1) COMMISSIONER FROM THE “BALIK-ISLAM COMMUNITY”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the amendment of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9997, as amended otherwise known as the “National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009” to specify that the composition of the commission shall include one (1) appointee from the “Balik-Islam Community”, in effect broaden the agency’s inclusivity and representation given that the number of individuals who have returned to Islam has considerably grown requiring such representation in the Commission.

As a pro-active response to the various challenges faced by “Balik-Islam” communities, this representation has taken cognizance of the need to specify one of the nine (9) commissioners as coming from the collective voices of individuals who have returned to Islam.

In a study conducted by the University of the Philippines for Integrative and Development Studies in 2023, the concerns of “Balik-Islam Communities” are as diverse as their ethnic, religious and social origins that personal, familial and community-related issues are left unaddressed, with a few in some instances, even ignored.

For and in behalf of our Muslim brothers and sisters, this measure is envisioned to give our “Balik-Islam Communities” a voice in the NCMF, a proposal that we hope shall further protect, respect and preserve the culture, traditions, institutions and well-being of Muslim Filipinos, consistent with the country’s laws as we pursue a national agenda of genuine “Unity in Diversity”.

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


SITTIE SHAHARA “BAI DIMPLE” I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City
Lone District



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

Section 1. Article I Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9997 is hereby amended to 2 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 SECTOR**: 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.

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. — 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,