


SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

'04 JUN 30 P11:45

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 811

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

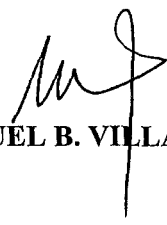
The performance of the Hajj rite to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a fundamental duty of all Muslims worldwide as it is the Fifth Pillar of Islam.

In the Philippines, the conduct of the annual Muslim pilgrimage has been institutionalized since 1978 when the defunct Philippine Pilgrimage Authority (PHILPA) was created pursuant to P.D. No. 1302. The institutionalization of the annual Hajj was aimed at providing for a systematic administration of the annual undertaking and also eliminating malpractices perpetrated in the past.

Following the bloodless revolution in 1986, PHILPA was abolished and its functions were transferred to the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA) by virtue of Executive Order No. 122-A, under the office's Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment (BPE). The Bureau is primarily responsible for the supervision of the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

In the past years, the conduct of Hajj was marred with irregularities and charges of mismanagement as aired in various complaints from Muslim pilgrims. The perennial problems encountered ranged from the failure of intending pilgrims to join the Hajj citing administrative lapses by responsible government agency, the amount of fees required, delays in the processing and issuance of travel documents, to airline and billeting accommodations, among others. An examination of these problems pointed to certain loopholes in E.O. 12-A which failed to provide for a clear responsibility and safeguards against abuse in the management discretion.

In view of the foregoing and the urgency of the measure with the view of its annual observance, approval of this Bill is earnestly urged.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S. No. 811

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

**AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 122-A, AS AMENDED BY
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 295, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT CREATING THE
OFFICE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS**

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Executive Order No. 122-A, as amended, is hereby further amended
to read as follows:

“SECTION 16. *Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment.* – The Bureau of Pilgrimage and
Endowment shall be primarily responsible for the administration of the annual Muslim
Pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia; 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, *Awqaf***
(endowment) properties and institutions; and the conduct of researches x x x.”

“IN THE PURSUANCE OF THE ABOVE RESPONSIBILITIES, THE BUREAU SHALL
FORMULATE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES TO INSURE: THE TIMELY
PROCESSING OF PILGRIMS’ TRAVEL DOCUMENTS; EQUITABLE AND
REASONABLE FEES: **PROVIDED, THAT COLLECTION OF FEES SHALL BE
LIMITED TO *MUTAWIFF* AND PASSPORTING/PROCESSING ONLY: *PROVIDED,*
HOWEVER, THAT, COLLECTED FEES SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN SPECIAL TRUST
FUND WHICH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE AND THE EXPENSES
FROM WHICH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING AUDITING LAWS, RULES AND**

REGULATIONS; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL *HAJJ* COORDINATING AND MONITORING UNITS; ACCREDITATION OF QUALIFIED AND DESERVING SHIEKS; AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE FORMULATED TIMETABLE OF *HAJJ* ACTIVITIES; FREE CHOICE OF TRAVEL AGENCIES AND AIRLINES OR OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BY PILGRIMS TO AND FROM THE SITE OF PILGRIMAGE: *PROVIDED, FURTHER,* THAT PILGRIMS COULD COMPLY WITH THE PRESCRIBED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE SCHEDULES FIXED BY THE MINISTRY OF *HAJJ* OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

x x x.”

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,