

13TH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S. BILL NO. 1386

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

Explanatory Note

Muslim affairs in the Philippines is a major component of the Filipino society's search for development and progress. In order to respond to the needs of our 6.6 million Muslim brothers, the government has continuously carved ways to effectively assess and respond to the growing needs of the Philippine Muslim community.

In this pursuit, the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) was created pursuant to Executive Order No. 122-A issued on January 30, 1987. The OMA is mandated to preserve and develop the culture, traditions, institutions and well-being of Muslim Filipinos, in conformity with the country's laws and in consonance with national unity and development.

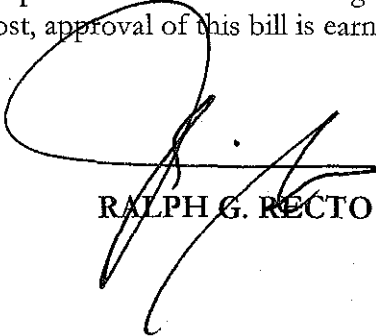
Specifically, the OMA endeavors to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1.) Enhance the contribution of the Muslim Filipinos to national goals and aspirations to make them active participants in nation- building;
- 2.) Ensure the integration and unification of the Muslim Filipinos in the mainstream of Philippine society with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions; and
- 3.) Promote the welfare and total development of the Muslim Filipinos.

One of the functions of the OMA is to oversee the coordination, supervision and administration of the annual Muslim pilgrimage or Hajj. Since 1978 when the program was first institutionalized, the government, through the former Philippine Pilgrimage Authority from 1978 to 1986, and through the Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment, Office on Muslim Affairs from 1987 to present, has continuously been providing assistance to Muslim Hajj and Umrah Pilgrims.

In the past years however, the conduct of Hajj was marked with anomalies and charges of mismanagement as manifested by complaints from Muslim pilgrims. The persistent problems ranged from the failure of expecting pilgrims to join the Hajj citing administrative lapses by responsible government agencies, the amount of fees required, delays in the processing and issuance of travel documents, to airline and billeting accommodations, among others. A further review of these problems pointed to certain loopholes in E.O. 122-A which failed to provide for a clear responsibility and safeguards against abuse in the management discretion.

In order to eradicate and correct these problems and to afford a greater number of Filipino Muslims performing Hajj at a lower cost, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


RALPH G. RECTO

1 AIRLINES OR OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BY PILGRIMS
2 TO AND FROM THE SITE OF PILGRIMAGE: *PROVIDED*, THAT
3 PILGRIMS COULD COMPLY WITH THE PRESCRIBED ARRIVAL AND
4 DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FIXED BY THE MINISTRY OF HAJJ OF
5 THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA; ESTABLISHMENT OF
6 REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HAJJ COORDINATING AND
7 MONITORING UNITS; ACCREDITATION OF QUALIFIED AND
8 DESERVING SHIEKS AND AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, STRICT
9 COMPLIANCE WITH THE FORMULATED TIMETABLE OF HAJJ
10 ACTIVITIES.”

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

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

Approved,