

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )**

23 AUG 29 P5:34

**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 768**

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VARIOUS REPORTED INCIDENTS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 2023 HAJJ BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS (NCMF), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE NEEDED LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE FUTURE PILGRIMAGES**

1 WHEREAS, *Hajj* is the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia that  
2 every adult Muslim must undergo at least once in a lifetime. It is the fifth of the  
3 fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam which  
4 also includes *Shahādah*, the profession of faith; *Salāt*, or the prayer performed five  
5 times each day; *Zakat* or the alms tax levied to benefit the poor and the needy; and  
6 *Sawm* which is the fasting during the month of Ramadan;

7 WHEREAS, *Hajj* takes place during the same period each year – during the  
8 month of Dhul Hijjah, the 12<sup>th</sup> month in the Islamic Calendar. *Hajj* begins on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
9 of Dhul Hijjah and lasts until the 13<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijjah;

10 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8(q) of Republic Act No. 9997 or the National  
11 Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009, the NCMF through the Bureau of  
12 Pilgrimage and Endowment (BPE) has been mandated to oversee the annual *Hajj* for  
13 Muslim Filipinos residing in the Philippines which includes formulating the necessary  
14 rules and regulations and coordinating with pertinent offices to ensure the success of  
15 the aforementioned event;

16 WHEREAS, according to data from the NCMF, from 2015 to 2019, around 5,000  
17 to 8,000 Filipino Muslims - most of whom are residents of Lanao, Zamboanga, Basilan,  
18 Sulu, Tawi-tawi, and Cotabato - participate in the annual pilgrimage;

1           WHEREAS, on June 2023, the Philippines, through the BPE, sent over 7,000  
2 Filipino Hajj pilgrims to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the annual *Hajj*  
3 pilgrimage which would take place from the 26th June until the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2023;

4           WHEREAS, according to Muslim Filipino pilgrims, most notably Vice Governor  
5 Abdusakur Tan II of Sulu, they experienced subpar treatment from the BPE. This poor  
6 delivery of services include (1) limited transport buses leading to overcrowding, safety  
7 risks, and exposure to extreme heat, (2) densely packed and low-quality  
8 accommodations, (3) limited cooling systems in tents despite the heat; (4) insufficient,  
9 repetitive, and nutritiously deficient food, and (5) the lack of prepared food for pilgrims  
10 on some days;

11           WHEREAS, they further reported that the BPE officer-in-charge stayed in a  
12 lavish five-star hotel during said period, while the NCMF top officials and other NCMF  
13 staff were remiss in their duty to assist Filipino participants as they themselves were  
14 pilgrims during the *Hajj* and were unable to adequately respond to the concerns and  
15 issues of other pilgrims;

16           WHEREAS, these same issues were raised during the 2022 *Hajj* pilgrimage and  
17 a previous investigation regarding the matter was even conducted;

18           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the  
19 Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an  
20 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the above-mentioned reported incidents on conduct of  
21 the 2023 *Hajj* by the NCMF, with the end in view of determining the needed legislation  
22 to improve future pilgrimages.

*Adopted,*



**SONNY ANGARA**