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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

RECEIVED BY: 

S E N A T E

S. No. 284

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Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*Hajj* or Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the pillars of Islam and is thus a fundamental duty of all able-bodied Muslims worldwide.

This bill proposes to explicitly define the mandate of the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA), particularly in the administration of the annual *Hajj*. This will benefit Filipino Muslims joining future *Hajj* who will be assured of efficient administrative support services from OMA especially with the establishment of regional and provincial *Hajj* coordinating units.

The bill likewise allows Muslim pilgrims to choose their preferred travel agencies and airlines, a reverse of the current practice of OMA imposing on the pilgrims to avail of the services of only three (3) accredited travel agencies and the Philippine Airlines and Saudi Air. With this liberalized policy, travel agencies and airlines will thus compete to offer the lowest cost and attendant amenities to travelling pilgrims. The pilgrims will thus be afforded the opportunity to perform their *Hajj* at cheaper cost.

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

  
SERGIO OSMEÑA III  
Senator

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SENATE

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

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

1        **SECTION 1.** Section 16 of Executive Order No. 122-A, as amended, is  
2 hereby further amended to read as follows:

3                "SECTION 16. *Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment.* --

4                The Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment shall be primarily  
5 responsible for the administration of the annual Muslim Pilgrimage  
6 to Mecca, Saudi Arabia; the formulation and implementation of  
7 programs, projects and activities for the efficient and effective  
8 administration and supervision of the conduct of pilgrimage  
9 activities: *Awqaf* (endowment) properties and institutions; and the  
10 conduct of researches and studies for the establishment and  
11 maintenance of *hajj* towns, Islamic centers and *Awqaf* projects.

12                PROVIDED, THAT THE SUPERVISION PRACTICED BY THE  
13 BUREAU UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT INCLUDE  
14 CONTROL."

15                "IN THE PURSUANCE OF THE ABOVE  
16 RESPONSIBILITIES, THE BUREAU SHALL FORMULATE THE  
17 NECESSARY GUIDELINES TO INSURE:

- 18                A) TIMELY PROCESSING OF THE PILGRIMS' TRAVEL  
19                DOCUMENTS;

- 1 B) EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE FEES: *PROVIDED*, THAT  
2 THE COLLECTION OF FEES SHALL BE LIMITED TO  
3 *MUTAWIFF* AND PASSPORTING/PROCESSING ONLY:  
4 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE COLLECTED FEES  
5 SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN A SPECIAL TRUST FUND  
6 WHICH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE:  
7 *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT THE EXPENSES INCURRED  
8 FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF  
9 THE TRUST FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING  
10 AUDITING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS;
- 11 C) FREE CHOICE OF TRAVEL AGENCIES AND AIRLINES OR  
12 OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BY PILGRIMS TO  
13 AND FROM THE SITE OF PILGRIMAGE: *PROVIDED*, THAT  
14 PILGRIMS SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE PRESCRIBED  
15 ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE SCHEDULES FIXED BY THE  
16 MINISTRY OF *HAJJ* OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI  
17 ARABIA;
- 18 D) ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL *HAJJ*  
19 COORDINATING AND MONITORING UNITS;
- 20 E) ACCREDITATION OF QUALIFIED AND DESERVING  
21 SHIEKS; AND
- 22 F) AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH  
23 THE FORMULATED TIMETABLE OF *HAJJ* ACTIVITIES.”

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

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

Approved,