Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 7184  

INTRODUCED BY:  
HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA  
Representative, 2nd District, Zambales  

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A MUSLIM FILIPINO CEMETERY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  

EXPLANATORY NOTE  

Section 5 of the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that “the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed.” In pursuance of this constitutional mandate, the state shall guarantee the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions thereby giving them the opportunity to contribute to nation-building.  

Muslim Filipinos observe traditional rites to honor and bury their dead, including funeral procession and mourning practices. They observe the Sunna which is the rigid conduct of Islam of their traditional festival and ceremony for the dead.  

In Mindanao, the kubul (grave) is found in lots allotted by the Muslim Filipino family as burial site for their demised family member. At times, this may be found in the garden of their family home. At present, Muslim Filipinos in the Province of Zambales still have difficulty in burying their dead. They often have to transport their dead to their native place in Mindanao for their repose.  

This proposed measure seeks to provide a common cemetery for Muslim Filipinos in Zambales by establishing a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in the province to preserve the sanctity of Islam belief and culture of honoring their dead.  

Having filed during the 16th and 17th Congresses, this bill is being re-filed and immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.  

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to
ensure the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs,
traditions and institutions, as well as to further ensure their contribution to national goals and
aspirations and to make them active participants in nation-building.

SECTION 2. Establishment of a Muslim Filipino Cemetery in the Province of Zamboales.
A Muslim Filipino Cemetery is hereby established in the Province of Zamboales which shall be
identified by the National Commission on Muslim Affairs (NCMA).

SECTION 3. Location of the Muslim Filipino Cemetery. The NCMA shall coordinate with
the concerned local government unit in the identification of the appropriate location for the said
Muslim Filipino Cemetery. The NCMA shall within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act
form a technical working group to formulate an implementation plan for the said cemetery.

SECTION 4. Maintenance and Operation of the Cemetery. The maintenance and
operation of the said cemetery shall be under the direct supervision and control of the NCMA or
its future derivative.

SECTION 5. Appropriation. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into
law and thereafter.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
the Official Gazette.

Approved,