



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22



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Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

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#### **RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS TO SECURE THE TRAVEL VISAS OF FILIPINO MUSLIM PILGRIMS FOR THE ANNUAL HAJJ, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING NECESSARY REFORMS TO ENSURE A BETTER PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the right to freedom of religion and belief is enshrined in and protected under Section 5, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, Islam is a monotheistic religion predicated on the belief that there is but one God, Allah (Swt);

**WHEREAS**, the fundamental practices and institutions in the religion are known as the Five Pillars of Islam;

**WHEREAS**, among the pillars of Islam central to the belief of close to two billion Muslims around the world is the Hajj;

**WHEREAS**, the Hajj is the annual Muslim pilgrimage to the most sacred city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia;

**WHEREAS**, the five-day pilgrimage brings Muslim followers of diverse backgrounds from across the world together in holy worship and religious celebration;

**WHEREAS**, the Hajj is a manifestation of the belief in the unity of God, and self-sacrifice in pursuit of the righteous path;

**WHEREAS**, the Hajj is a once in a lifetime duty that is the peak of every Muslim's religious life;

**WHEREAS**, this year's momentous religious pilgrimage is, however, overshadowed by reports of flight cancellations;

**WHEREAS**, the government agency tasked to coordinate and supervise the Hajj, known as the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), allegedly failed to secure the travel visas of the pilgrims;

**WHEREAS**, the fiasco left nearly a thousand Filipino Muslim pilgrims stranded in airports;

**WHEREAS**, it is most unfortunate that such incident caused undue stress and anxiety to the pilgrims, who have been eagerly waiting to perform the Hajj since 2020;

**WHEREAS**, this will be the first time in two years that Filipino Muslims will take part in the Hajj, since overseas participation was hampered by the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the government to look into the highest welfare of the aspiring pilgrims who set aside hard-earned money amounting to hundreds of thousands of pesos each for their travel arrangements to Saudi Arabia;

**WHEREAS**, the fiasco necessitates the review of existing NCMF policies on the Hajj coordination program to ensure better pilgrimage experience for Filipino Muslims;

**RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, to direct the appropriate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alleged failure of NCMF to secure travel visas of

Filipino Muslim pilgrims for the annual Hajj with the end in view of instituting necessary reforms to ensure a better pilgrimage experience.

Adopted,

  
**HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN**