

Suggestions During Defense

Functional Components (Main System Features)

1. Certification Application System (Main Focus)

- Stateful Status Management:
 - Track status transitions: e.g., Submitted → Reviewed → Scheduled for Visit → Final Review → Approved/Rejected.

Status Notifications:

- Inform applicants every time their status changes.

Document Upload and Checklist Validation:

- System should track and validate uploaded requirements.
- Show applicants what documents are missing.

Site Visit Scheduling and Notifications:

- Schedule site visits and inform the applicant.
- Allow feedback or notes from the certifying body.

Follow-Up Visit Management:

- Support multiple visits based on compliance or issues found.

Final Review and Decision (Approve/Reject):

- Include rejection functionality with reason/feedback for non-compliance.

2. Certification Body Management

Checklist per Certification Body:

- Each body (e.g., MinHA, NCMF) may have different requirements.

Compliance Verification:

- System must ensure certifying bodies follow legal guidelines.

3. User/Establishment Features

- User Management System

Search and Filter Listings:

- Search by map/location, filters (e.g., category, certification status).

User-Contributed Listings:

- Allow users to submit establishments (especially new or uncertified ones).

Dashboard Visualization:

- Certified/non-certified establishments shown on the map.

Trade Rules and User Interaction:

- System should reflect real-world trade and listing behavior.

Weaknesses/Areas to Improve (based on critique)

- System is currently shallow in process depth.

Lacks integral components like:

- Site visit features
- Rejection handling
- Full checklist integration

Summary of Action Points

- Make certification application process the core of the system.
- Implement status tracking, notifications, and checklists.
- Add site visit scheduling, follow-up, and final approval workflows.
- Support certification body management with customizable requirements.
- Enhance search, filter, map, and user-contributed listings.



7 STAGES IN HALAL APPLICATION



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APPLICATION FORM FOR HALAL CERTIFICATION

(Instruction: Please submit this application with required product information to MMHCB)

Company Name: _____

Office Address: _____

Tel No.: _____ Fax _____ E-mail: _____

Authorized Applicant: _____ Designation: _____

Plant Address: _____

Contact person at plant: _____ Designation: _____

Tel No.: _____ Fax _____ E-mail: _____

Type of business: _____ Target Market/s: _____

List of product/s to be certified (Use additional sheet if necessary:for food establishment or restaurant, board will certify the kitchen or all menu cooked in the said kitchen.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

We declare that the particulars supplied above and the supporting documents attached herewith are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. In case of approval of this Application for Halal Certification, we bind ourselves to maintain the Halal standard quality of our product/s as mandated and implemented by MMHCB. It is understood that incase of violation of any of the junctions on Halal Certification and Accreditation, the MMHCB may cancel the halal certification issued pursuant hereto without prejudice to the legal consequence of such violation.

Authorized Name & Signature

Date signed
Pls. check:

- ☐ New
☐ Renewal

Note: Please attached company's profile , updated business permit.
Biodata of Muslim Halal Assurance Officer

THE COLLECTION OF FEES AND OTHER PARAMETERS:

The collection of fees is very minimal since the board is a non-profit organization:

- A non refundable Php 200 upon filing of application.
- Certification Fees ranges from Php 2,500-Php 10,000(except Abattoir)depending on the sizes and types of business(export) and must be renewed yearly or up 2 years after the 1st Renewal but the payment of certification fee shall be on yearly basis.
- Inspection fee of Php 900 to Php 2,000 per Halal Auditor depending on the distance of the establishment applying halal certification.(inspection done per renewal).2-3 Halal Auditors.
- Accommodation and transportation including meals must be borne by the establishment. Plus Laboratory Analysis fees.
- Establishment must hire Halal Assurance and Monitoring Officer that should be screened and briefed or trained by the board.
- Establishment must be willing for **monthly** and unannounced or **surprise** inspection by the Board.
- Lab. Tests required for confirmation and assurance.(end products and ingredients used if not halal certified)

Where are the Fees Collected Spend by the Board?

- Operations of the Board
- For Charity Institutions
- Full or Partial Scholarships on Halal Science or any halal related courses(USM-Kabacan,Univ. Putra Malaysia-Malaysia, Halal Science Center, Chulalongkorn University-Bangkok.)
- Free Medical and Veterinary Outreaches on selected areas.
- Food items, medicines for displaced families due to man-made or natural calamities.
- Info-Advocacies(Print,Broadcast and Symposia).
- The **Book of Account** of the MMHCBI is open for public scrutiny during Gen. Assembly Meeting of the Board for the sake of Transparency. (Independent or not members of the Board are invited for critiquing.)

OFFICE ADDRESS:

Ground Floor ,Muasah Khalifa wa Asma Lilhidayati, Wa Estah Bldg, Brgy. Datu Balabaran, Cotabato City, Philippines 9600

Contact Phones: 064- 421-12-34(Look for Dr. Kuit), 09263431462, 09192804224(Meriam)

Email adds: mindanaohalal@yahoo.com and dr.kuit@yahoo.com

How to apply for Halal Certification from MMHCBI?

Requirements for Halal Certification:

Filled up MMHCBI Application Form

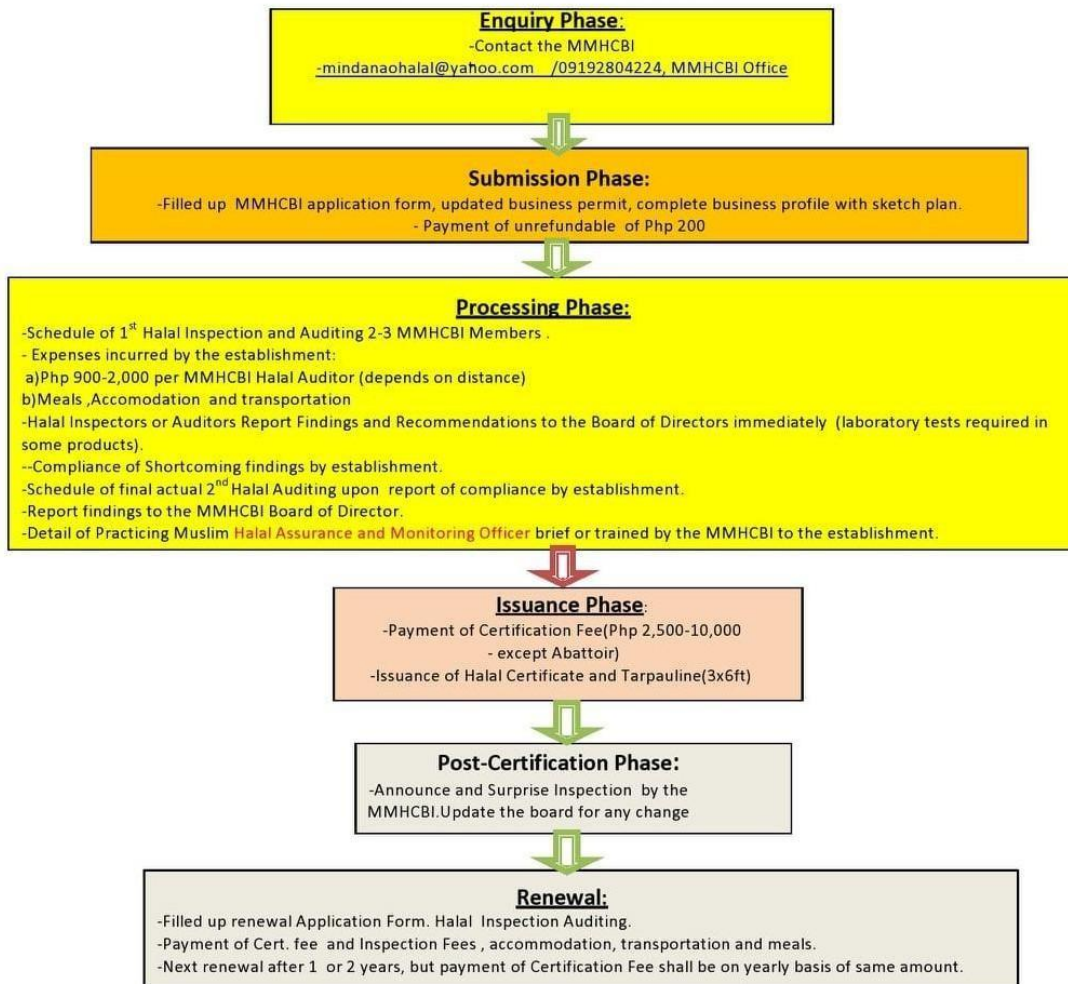
Profile of the Company(includes employees status etc)

Photocopies of Updated Business Permit, HACCP(for export) etc

Simple Sketch plan of the Production Area(Comfort Room etc)

Complete Lists of Ingredients Used and Products to be certified.

Flow of Halal Certification Application:



Muslim Mindanao Halal Certification Board, Inc. (MMHCBI)

Gathered Data Summary

Background

- Launched: October 16, 2006 (Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati)
- Coverage: Entire Philippines
- Composition: Members from **Darul Iftah** (Muftis, Shariah experts) and Muslim professionals in medicine, chemistry, veterinary, engineering, and food sciences.
- Unique Advantage: Partnership with Dar'ul Iftah of the Philippines, giving strong religious authority on halal rulings.
- MOUs: Halal Industry Development Corp. (Malaysia), Islamic Committee of Thailand, University of Southern Mindanao.
- Recognitions:
 - Basis for Philippine National Standard on Halal Food (PNS 2068:2007)
 - Accredited by ARMM (through DTI) and by **NCMF** (2014, updated 2024)
 - Member of International Halal Integrity Alliance (IHI)

Organizational Structure

- Board of Trustees composed of provincial muftis, technical experts, and Shariah scholars from various regions.
- Executive Committee led by Executive Director Mariam M. Daud and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Norodin A. Kuit (Halal Lead Auditor).
- Technical and Shariah staff deployed nationwide.
- Two legal advisers.

Halal Certification Process (7 Stages)

1. Application
2. Submission of documents
3. Application receipt
4. Payment of fees
5. Compliance audits (1st & 2nd)
6. Issuance of certificate
7. Surveillance audit

Major Requirements

- Updated business permit
- FDA/BFAD license to operate
- Establishment profile
- Halal Assurance Officer (board-approved)
- HACCP & GMP (for export)
- Lab test (optional)
- BAI registration (feeds)
- NMIS accreditation (abattoirs)

Fees

- Certification: ₱2,000–₱10,000/year (export higher)
- Abattoir/dressing plant packages: ~₱20,000/year
- Auditor's fees: ₱1,600 (local) / ₱3,500–₱5,000 (outside) + expenses

Use of Fees

- Expansion of members
- Administrative costs
- Outreach programs & scholarships
- Halal promotion & charity

Current Status (as of April 15, 2025)

- **219 certified halal establishments nationwide**

Development Plans

- Training & refresher courses (ISO, HACCP)
- Financial support for SMEs seeking certification
- Aim for international recognition (JAKIM, WHC, ESMA)

BARMM Halal Industry Recommendations

- Livestock and poultry production partnerships with integrators like Vitarich
- Upgraded slaughterhouse and poultry processing infrastructure
- Contract growing schemes for sustainable halal meat supply

Conclusion

The MMHCBI plays a critical role in strengthening halal certification in the Philippines through its religious authority, technical expertise, and nationwide presence. Its structured 7-stage certification process, backed by strict requirements and continuous surveillance, ensures credibility and compliance. With over 200 certified establishments, MMHCBI has significantly contributed to the growth of the halal sector. Its ongoing plans for training, SME support, and pursuit of international accreditation highlight its commitment to raising halal standards. In BARMM, the organization's proposed livestock and poultry initiatives aim to boost both food security and the halal economy.

MMHCBI's Detailed Halal Certification Process Flow

1. Application of Establishment

- The business submits an application to become halal certified.

2. Submission of Required Documents

- Applicant provides all necessary documentation (permits, licenses, profiles, etc.).

3. Documents Received by the Board

- MMHCBI reviews and acknowledges receipt of documents.

4. Compliance Audit Assessment

- Preliminary review to check readiness for an actual audit.

5. Payment of Scheduled Fees

- Applicant pays:
 - **Audit Fee**
 - **Annual Certification Fee**

6. Initial Actual Audit Assessment

- On-site inspection to evaluate conformity with halal standards.

7. Meeting with Management & Staff

- Discussion with the establishment's head and selected staff.

8. Ocular Inspection

- Walkthrough of premises, production areas, storage, and staff facilities.

9. Final Verification Audit Upon Conformity

- If issues were found earlier, a follow-up verification audit is done.

10. Photo Documentation / Final Check

- Assigned Halal Assurance Officer or auditors take photos and verify compliance.

11. Final Meeting & Compliance Agreement

- Discuss findings, set complete compliance date if needed.

12. Issuance of Halal Certificate

- Granted once all requirements are met.

13. Post-Audit Surveillance

- Surprise visits, quarterly reports from the Halal Assurance Officer to ensure continued compliance.

Mindanao Halal Authority Inc. (Mindanao Halal Authority, inc.)
Interview Summary

Interviewee: Engr. Tita Suib, Representative of MINHA, Inc.

Date of Interview: March 13, 2025

1. Scopes of Halal Certification

- Certification is not limited to food; MINHA covers nine scopes including:
 - Farms
 - Hotels and Restaurants
 - Slaughterhouses
 - Food manufacturers
 - Other related sectors

2. Requirements for Halal Certification / Recertification

Requirements vary based on the type of business, but some common

documents include: Legal and Regulatory Documents

- **For corporations:** SEC registration
- **For cooperatives:** CDA (Cooperative Development Authority) registration
- **For associations:** DOLE registration
- **License to operate:**
 - Food manufacturers:** From the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Slaughterhouses:** From NMIS (National Meat Inspection Service)

3. Application Process

Step-by-step procedure to apply for certification:

Submission Phase

1. Letter of Intent
2. Filled Application Form

3. Company Profile
4. Organizational Chart
5. Process Flow Diagram (from start to finish of operations)
6. Halal Assurance System (HAS)
 - Identify halal hazards in the process
 - Documentation of how halal hazards are mitigated
7. Presence of an in-house Halal Auditor
8. Certification Fee based on business size (e.g., micro, small, medium enterprise) If there are doubts in ingredients or processes, samples must be submitted to a halal laboratory for verification.

4. Post-Submission Steps

Once the application and requirements are complete:

Inspection & Audit Phase

1. MINHA schedules an audit.
2. Auditors verify:
 - Compliance with requirements
 - Original copies of documents
 - On-site operations, process flow, facilities
3. At least two auditors are deployed for the site inspection/site visit.
4. Audit honorarium must be provided by the applicant.
5. Businesses must be operational for at least one year before applying.

Conclusion

MINHA provides halal certification across a broad range of industries beyond food. The process involves legal compliance, clear documentation, halal hazard identification, internal auditing, and site inspection. Certification is granted only after a comprehensive audit confirms that all halal standards are met, and the business has been operational for at least one year.

Process Flow of Mindanao Halal Authority (Minha, Inc.)

Halal Certification

1. Application Stage

- **Step 1.1 – Letter of Intent**

Applicant submits a formal letter expressing intent to apply for halal certification or recertification.

- **Step 1.2 – Application Form**

Fill out MINHA's official application form.

2. Submission of Requirements

- **Step 2.1 – Company Information & Structure**

- Company Profile
- Organizational Chart
- Process Flow Diagram (from start to finish of operations)

- **Step 2.2 – Legal & Regulatory Permits** (*varies by business type*)

- Corporations: **SEC Registration**
- Cooperatives: **CDA Registration**
- Associations: **DOLE Registration**
- Food Manufacturers: **FDA License to Operate**
- Slaughterhouses: **NMIS Accreditation**
- Other scope-specific permits

- **Step 2.3 – Halal Assurance System (HAS)**
 - Identification of potential **halal hazards** in operations
 - Documentation showing mitigation measures
 - Establishment of in-house **Halal Auditor**
- **Step 2.4 – Laboratory Testing (if needed)**
 - If there is doubt about ingredients or processes, samples are sent to an accredited **halal laboratory**.
- **Step 2.5 – Payment of Certification Fee**
 - Based on company size (micro, small, medium, large enterprise).

3. Preliminary Review

- **Step 3.1 – Validation of Documents**
 - MINHA checks completeness and authenticity of submitted requirements.
 - Must provide **original documents** for verification (certified true copies).
- **Step 3.2 – Eligibility Check**
 - Applicant must be **operational for at least one year** before applying.

4. Audit Scheduling

- **Step 4.1 – Setting Audit Date**
 - MINHA schedules on-site inspection and audit once documents are verified.
- **Step 4.2 – Deployment of Auditors**
 - At least **two auditors** assigned.
 - Applicant shoulders **audit honorarium** and related expenses.

5. On-Site Inspection & Audit

- **Step 5.1 – Facility Inspection**
 - Physical inspection of buildings, production areas, storage, and other facilities.
- **Step 5.2 – Process Verification**
 - Ensure process flow matches documented procedures.
 - Check if halal hazards are effectively mitigated.
- **Step 5.3 – Document Verification**
 - Re-check original permits, licenses, and compliance records.

6. Audit Findings & Compliance

- **Step 6.1 – Non-Conformance Report (if applicable)**
 - If issues are found, MINHA issues a compliance list.
 - Applicant must address these within a specified time.
- **Step 6.2 – Final Verification**
 - Re-audit or verification visit to confirm corrective actions.

7. Issuance of Halal Certificate

- Granted only after:
 - All requirements are satisfied.
 - Audit confirms full compliance with halal standards.

8. Post-Certification Monitoring

- **Surprise audits** and periodic reviews by MINHA auditors.
- Renewal process follows the same steps, with updated documents.

National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF)

Interview Summary

Interviewee: Dir. Aida P. Seddic

Date of Interview: March 10, 2025

Halal Certification Status in South Cotabato

As of the latest interview, there are still no officially certified halal establishments in South Cotabato. However, several places operate as halal-compliant or halal-friendly. These businesses may not have formal certification, but they do follow certain practices to accommodate Muslim customers. For instance, they avoid serving pork, ensure shariah-compliant food handling, and sometimes maintain separate kitchens or storage areas to prevent cross-contamination. While they don't carry a halal seal, their efforts reflect a genuine intent to respect halal guidelines.

Understanding the Difference: Halal-Compliant vs Certified Halal

It's important to clarify the distinction between being *halal-compliant* and *certified halal*.

- **Halal-compliant** or **halal-friendly** refers to establishments that make an effort to follow Muslim dietary laws but haven't gone through the official certification process.
- **Certified halal**, on the other hand, means the business has been formally evaluated and approved by an accredited Halal Certifying Body (HCB). It's an official status recognized by religious and industry standards.

Prayer Facilities in Public Spaces

In recent years, several malls and public areas have started to install prayer rooms to better serve the Muslim community. Notably, SM General Santos, Robinsons, and KCC/Veranza Mall now offer designated spaces for prayer. This development shows a growing awareness and inclusivity in public infrastructure, making it easier for Muslim shoppers and travelers to observe their religious duties.

Efforts by the NCMF

The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) is currently focused on its Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign. This includes distributing brochures and educational materials about halal practices and halal-friendly establishments in the SOCCSKSARGEN region. They're still in the data-gathering phase, compiling a comprehensive list of halal-compliant businesses and products to guide both consumers and business owners.

Halal is for Everyone

One common misconception the NCMF is working to correct is that halal is *only* for Muslims. In reality, halal food is clean, safe, and healthy, which makes it appealing even to non-Muslims. Many people who are health-conscious or avoid pork for various reasons also choose halal options. It's not just a religious label it's a mark of quality and safety.

The Bigger Picture: Economic Potential

The relevance of halal in South Cotabato goes beyond religious practice. The halal industry holds significant economic and industrial potential, especially in attracting Muslim-friendly tourism. Compared to countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, where halal industries are thriving, the Philippines is still in the early stages of development. Strengthening the halal sector can lead to greater tourism, job creation, and business opportunities in the region.

NCMF's Role in Certification

It's worth noting that the NCMF does not directly certify halal establishments or products. Instead, its role is to accredit Halal Certifying Bodies (HCBs)—the organizations that carry out the actual inspections and issue certifications. The NCMF also works closely with local government units (LGUs) to promote halal awareness and support businesses interested in getting certified.

Conclusion

At the moment, South Cotabato area don't yet have certified halal restaurants, but many establishments are making strides to be more Muslim-friendly. The NCMF is playing a key role in supporting the development of a more robust halal ecosystem through education, accreditation, and collaboration with local stakeholders. Ultimately, the halal industry is not just about religious observance it represents a growing opportunity for inclusive economic development that benefits both Muslim and non-Muslim communities alike.

Process Flow for Applying as a New Halal Certifying Body (HCB)

1. **Send a letter of intent** to the NCMF office.
 2. **Receive and complete a list of requirements** provided by the office.
 3. **Undergo validation and assessment** by the local NCMF office, ensuring the applicant already has an office and is stable, with a clear scope of products to be certified.
 4. **Local endorsement** – The local NCMF validates documents, monitors, and inspects the applicant's premises.
 5. **Central office review** – The endorsed application is submitted to the NCMF central office for review by the **en banc committee**, which determines if the applicant meets the requirements to become an HCB.
 6. **Issuance of accreditation** – If approved, the certifying body receives an official certificate.
- **Validity:** The certificate is valid for **three years**. Renewal requires submission of the same requirements, plus an updated list of certified products and notification of any changes (e.g., new address, new executive director).