

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2623**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: **08 AUG 2016**

TIME: **2:02 PM**

BY: **pli**

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by: Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr.

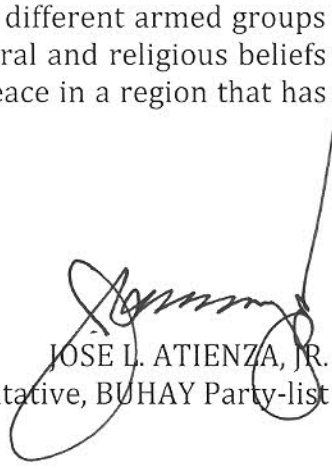
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This representation filed House Bill No. 2949 in 2013 with the objective of helping address the continuing rift between Muslims and Christians brought about by differences in, among other things, culture and religion. We believe that with this bill, we will be able to generate a better awareness and appreciation of the Muslim character, as well as to showcase the diverse Muslim culture through their traditional songs and dances.

In February of this year, in substitution of HB 2949, the Committees on Muslim Affairs and Appropriations approved House Bill 6472, entitled: "An Act Establishing a Bangsamoro Trade and Cultural Center of the Philippines in the City of Manila and Appropriating Funds Therefor".

This is very timely as the new administration, led by President Rodrigo Duterte, has made known its intention to sit down with the different armed groups and pursue a lasting peace in Mindanao. Difference in cultural and religious beliefs and practices should not be a hindrance in the pursuit of peace in a region that has long been plagued by armed conflict.

We move for the urgent passage of this bill.


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Representative, BUKHAY Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2623**

Introduced by: Representative Jose L. Atienza, Jr.

AN ACT
CREATING A MUSLIM TRADE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, IN
THE CITY OF MANILA, AS THE CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION ONE. This Act shall be known as the “MUSLIM TRADE AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES ACT OF 2013”.

SEC. 2. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote and advance the culture of every part of the Philippines. The State recognizes the people’s need for cultural understanding and tolerance, and for knowledge of local customs and products.

SEC 3. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, as well as the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, are hereby mandated to be the lead agencies in the implementation of this Act, to formulate a guideline of requirements and to structure a timetable for the creating of the Muslim Trade and Cultural Center of the Philippines.

SEC 4. In line with this, both National Commissions shall closely coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the funding requirements and other pertinent matters needed in the implementation of this Act.

SEC 5. The DPWH shall closely coordinate with the Local Government of Manila with regards to the location of the land where the Muslim Trade and Cultural Center of the Philippines is proposed to be established.

SEC 6. The land must be owned by the government.

SEC 7. The appropriation for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the unobligated budget allocations of the two National Commissions, DPWH, DBM, the President's Social Fund and the City of Manila under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.