

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Cotabato City

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Begun and held in Cotabato City, the twenty-seventh day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Two.

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[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 17]

"AN ACT RECOGNIZING MUSLIM HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS EVENTS AND ALL EXISTING MUSLIM HOLIDAYS IN THE ARMM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Be it enacted by the Regional Legislative Assembly in session assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - The title of this Act shall be known as the "ARMM HOLIDAY LAW."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is a declared policy of the Regional Government in the ARMM in accordance with Republic Act No. 6734, to recognize Muslim Historical and Religious Events and all existing Muslim Holidays as Regular Non-Working Holidays in the area of Autonomy. The Autonomous Government shall also allow the observance of the anniversaries of the different local government units within the ARMM as Special Holidays. Nothing, however, in this Act shall preclude the observance of declared National Holidays.



SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.

1. Regular Non-Working Holidays - are those holidays which are observed annually throughout the area of autonomy and which no longer need the proclamation by the Regional Governor.
2. Special Holidays - refers to holidays in certain local government units and other events of historical and religious significance to the people of the ARMM which need official proclamation from the Regional Governor.

SEC. 4. Declaration of Holidays. -- For the purpose of the aforementioned declared policy, the following are hereby declared as Regular Non-Working Holidays in the ARMM.

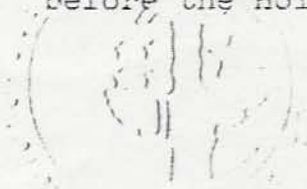
1. ARMM Anniversary - which falls on November nineteen (19) of every year.
2. All recognized Muslim Holidays as provided for in Presidential Decree No. 291, as amended, to wit:
 - a) Eid-ul-Fitr (Hariraya Puasa) which falls on the First Day of the lunar month of Shawwal commemorating the end of the fasting season.
 - b) Eid-ul Adha (Hariraya Haji) which falls on the tenth (10th) day of the twelfth lunar month of Zul Hijja.

- c) Maulod-en Nabi (Birthday of Prophet Mohammad S.A.W.) which falls on the twelfth (12th) day of the third lunar month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.
- d) Lailatul Izra Wal Miraj (Nocturnal Journey and Ascension of Prophet Mohammad S.A.W.) which falls on the twenty-seventh (27th) day of the seventh lunar month of Rajab.
- e) Ashura which falls on the tenth (10th) day of the first lunar month of Muharram.
- f) Amun Jadeed (New Year) which falls on the first day of the first lunar month of Muharram.

SEC. 5. Coverage. - The Muslim Holidays enumerated herein shall be officially observed by all private and public offices, private corporations and establishments, government owned and/or controlled corporations, private and public schools, established and operating in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and all offices of the ARMM established outside of the area of autonomy.

SEC. 6. Date of Observance. - Except for the ARMM anniversary as provided for in Section 4 the approximate dates of the holidays herein enumerated shall be determined in accordance with the Muslim Hijrah Calendar or based on the appearance of the moon or on Islamic Astronomical calculations, whichever is possible or convenient.

For this purpose, the Regional Governor shall make the necessary proclamation at least three (3) days before the Holiday.




SEC. 7. Local Government Units Anniversary. - The Regional Governor may, by official proclamation, allow the observance of the anniversary of the different Local Government Units and other events of religious or historical significance in the ARMM provided such units shall notify and seek the official sanction of the Regional Governor at least fifteen (15) days before the observance of their anniversary. These shall be considered as Special Non-Working Holidays.

Likewise, during the fasting month of Ramadhan, the office of Regional Governor shall prescribe and adjust the office hours of all Muslim employees within the Autonomous Region who shall hold continuous daily office hours without noon break.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or contrary to Republic Act No. 6734, the same shall not apply to the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All regional laws, executive orders and memoranda or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended and/or modified accordingly.



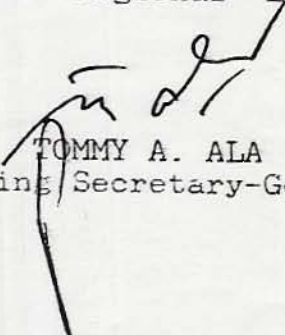
SEC. 10. Observance. - The Regional Governor shall take the necessary steps for the strict observance of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.


APPROVED:


ALI PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on November 24, 1992.


TOMMY A. ALA
Acting Secretary-General

APPROVED:


ZACARIA A. CANDAO
Regional Governor
Date _____