

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

[MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NO. 296]

Begun and held in Cotabato City, on Monday, the twenty-second day of October 2012.

**AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE SHEIK KARIMUL
MAKHDUM MOSQUE MANAGEMENT BOARD TO PRESERVE
AND PROMOTE THE SHEIK KARIMUL MAKHDUM MOSQUE
AS ONE OF THE BANGSAMORO HISTORICAL LANDMARKS
IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AT
TUBIG INDANGAN, SIMUNUL, TAWI-TAWI, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This act shall be known as “The Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Mosque Preservation and Development Act of 2013.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is a declared policy of the autonomous regional government to preserve historical sites, monuments and other relics, which represent our Bangsamoro culture of the region and shall be under protection of the regional government heritage and treasure.

SEC 3. *Declaration, Promotion and Preservation* - Consistent with Article XIV, Section 26 of the RA 9054, which states that “*the Regional Government shall recognize, respect, protect, preserve, revive, develop, promote and enhance the culture, traditions, beliefs and practices of the people of the autonomous region. It shall encourage and undertake the recovery, collection, collation and restoration of historical and cultural properties for posterity*”, it is therefore a regional mandate to create and establish the Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Management Board in order to preserve and promote the Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque at Tubig Indangan, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi as a Bangsamoro Historical Landmark, to underscore the immense contribution of Sheikh Karimul Makhdum in spreading Islam to the enrichment, vibrancy and diversity of our culture and civilization.

Meanwhile, in accordance to Executive Order No. 10, dated 4 November 1991, signed by Regional Governor Zacaria A. Candao, stipulating the *“Declaration of November 7 as Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Day and Observance Thereof as a Special Public Holiday in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”*, it is therefore deemed fitting and proper that due honour and recognition be given to the Sheikh by declaring and observing November 7 of every year as a special public holiday in the region.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms* - For the purposes of this Bill, the terms and phrases used shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a.) Sheik Karimul Makhdum refers to the first Arabian missionary to reach the country specifically in Mindanao to propagate Islam as early as 1380.
- b.) Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque refers to the Muslim mosque built in 1380 or 633 years ago in remembrance to Sheik Karimul Makhdum who introduced Islam in the Philippines;
- c.) Bangsamoro Historical Landmark refers to the site and structure located at Tubig Indangan, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi that is officially recognized by both National and Regional Governments for its socio-cultural and religious significance to the Bangsamoro people, in particular, and the country, in general;
- d.) Sheik Karimul Makhdum Day refers to the November 7th declared annual holiday in the autonomous region pursuant to Executive Order No. 10 dated November 4, 1991 by the Regional Autonomous Government.
- e.) Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque Management Board refers to the management body that shall assist in the formulation of policies and programs and in the management of the Bangsamoro Historical Landmark;
- f.) Traditional Leader or Elder refers to a Muslim leader or Elder from the local community of Simunul, Tawi-Tawi with high wisdom and expertise on the history and socio-cultural and religious importance of Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Mosque;
- g.) Site refers to the Landmark itself and is used interchangeably in this Act;

SEC 5. *Maintenance, Promotion and Preservation* - In the maintenance, promotion and preservation of the abovementioned site, the Regional Governor shall hereby appoint a Management Board which shall take charge on its maintenance and preservation.

SEC 6. *Supervision* - The Sheik Karimul Makhdum Management Board shall be under the overall supervision of the Office of the Regional Governor through the Regional Department of Tourism.

SEC 7. *The Regional Department of Tourism* - To maintain, promote and preserve the Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Mosque as a Bangsamoro Historical Landmark, the Regional Department of Tourism on behalf of the Regional Governor, shall exercise overall supervision over the Management Board and shall ensure that the necessary rules and regulations to effectuate the preceding sections of this Act are effectively and efficiently implemented.

SEC 8. *The Sheikh Makhdum Management Board* - The Board shall assist in the crafting of policies and programs aimed at preserving the cultural and historical importance of the site and promoting it as a historical landmark of the Bangsamoro in the region, in particular, and in the country, in general. It shall likewise come up with a management plan and define its strategic direction in accordance with the objective of this Act.

SEC 9. *Composition and Function of the Sheikh Makhdum Management Board* - To help manage and preserve the site, the Board is hereby created to assist in the achievement of the objective of this Act. It shall be composed of the following:

- a.) *Department of Tourism-ARMM* - To ensure the promotion of the Sheik Makhdum Mosque in the national arena of tourism development, DOT-ARMM through the Secretary will act as Chairperson and will establish mechanisms and strategic planning to maximize the socio-cultural and historical significance and appeal of the landmark to the mainstream society particularly to local and international tourists, among others.
- b.) *Bureau of Cultural Heritage-ARMM* - As a cultural policy arm of the region, the Executive Director will act as co-chair of the Board and ensure that the cultural and historical importance of the Landmark are preserved, documented and popularized.

- c.) *Provincial Government of Tawi-Tawi* - The Provincial Government of Tawi-Tawi through the Provincial Tourism Office shall act as a member of the Board. It shall help in the promotion and preservation of the landmark by including the latter as one of the priorities in the Provincial Tourism Master Plan and allocate funds based on paragraph 2 of Section 11 hereof.
- d.) *Municipal Government of Simunul* - As the governing political entity at the local level, the LGU-Simunul through the Local Chief Executive or his duly representative as member, is tasked in the regular monitoring and supervision of the Landmark in accordance with the rules and regulations set by the Management Board.
- e.) *Civil Society Organization (CSO)* - A local CSO shall sit as one of the members of the Board. It shall help in the promotion of the Landmark both as a religious and historical-cultural site by undertaking information and education campaigns, among others.
- f.) *Religious Sector/Traditional Leader or Elder*- A religious sector representative, leader or elder from the community shall be appointed as a member of the Board. It shall assist the Board in providing the religious and cultural perspective of the Landmark and shall work closely with LGU-Simunul in the performance of such task.
- g.) *Academe*- An academic institution either a college or university shall have one representative to the Board. The institution shall be the repository of all research papers, books and related documents on the history and cultural importance of Sheikh Makhdum Mosque. It shall help conduct further studies, if necessary, for the preservation and promotion of the Landmark.

The last three (3) members of the Management Board shall be appointed by the Regional Governor per recommendations of the LGU-Simunul.

SEC 10. *Internal Rules and Regulations* - Upon its composition, the Board shall come up with its own internal rules and regulations to guide them in the day-to-day management of the site.

SEC 11. *Appropriation* - The amount of Three Hundred Thousand (P300,000.00) Php shall be allocated annually from the Local Funds of the Regional Government for the operation and maintenance of the Landmark.

The Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque Management Board is hereby authorized to organize and undertake a campaign for the purpose of raising funds from private sources. The Board shall be responsible in the management of the funds based on the existing government auditing rules and regulations.

Moreover, the Local Government Units of the Province of Tawi-Tawi and the Municipality of Simunul shall also allocate appropriate funds for the Landmark in accordance with their respective budgetary priorities.

SEC 12. *Separability Clause* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or illegal or invalid, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain to be in full force and effect.

Section 13. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect upon its approval and publication in a newspaper of regional circulation.

APPROVED.

(SGD) RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.
Speaker

This Act was passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly on March 11, 2013.

(SGD) DATU MAMA M. AMPATUAN
Secretary-General

APPROVED:

(SGD) MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Regional Governor

Date: _____