



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao Oriental
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
SP Complex, Government Center, Dahican
CITY OF MATI



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 116TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 17TH SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF DAVAO ORIENTAL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024, AT THE CITY OF MATI, THIS PROVINCE.

PRESENT:

Hon. Nelson R. Dayanghirang, Jr. Vice Governor – Presiding Officer

Regular Members:

District I

Hon. Anna Cheryl N. Castro
Hon. Andy A. Monday

District II

Hon. Harold A. Montes
Hon. Rotchie M. Ravelo
Hon. Daud V. Linsag

Ex-Officio Members:

Hon. Jossone Michael G. Dayanghirang	President, Liga Ng Mga Barangay (LNB) Davao Oriental Chapter
Hon. Eleuterio C. Manaytay	Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR)
Hon. Shanine C. Lintogonan	Sangguniang Kabataan Provincial Federation President (SKPFP)

ABSENT:

Hon. Shella Marie S. Go	SP Member, District II
Hon. Art Benjie C. Bulaong	SP Member, District I
Hon. Stephen Paul L. Uy	SP Member, District II – OB - Lupon
Hon. Marietta D. Palmera	SP Member, District I – Special Privilege Leave
Hon. Michelle M. Centeno	SP Member, District I – Vacation Leave
Hon. Joselito B. Villademoso	President, Philippine Councilors League (PCL) - Davao Oriental Chapter

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 17-38-09-2024

Author : Hon. Rotchie M. Ravelo
Co-Author : Hon. Daud V. Linsag
Sponsor : Hon. Daud V. Linsag

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MUSLIM PRAYER ROOMS (MUSALLAHS) WITHIN THE PROVINCE-OWNED TOURISM FACILITIES, GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession, without discrimination or preference;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9997 or the *National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009*, “declares that it is a policy of the State to ensure the rights and

well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions, as well as to further ensure their contribution to national goals and aspirations and to make them active participants in nation building”;

WHEREAS, Section 2(d) of Republic Act No. 9593, “The Tourism Act of 2009”, “provides that the State shall seek to *create a favorable image of the Philippines within the international community, thereby strengthening the country’s attraction as a tourism destination and eventually paving the way for other benefits that may result from a positive global view of the country*”;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the beliefs, traditions, and customs of Muslim travelers and tourists, which is one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in the world, there is a need to ensure quality and appropriate service by having a prayer rooms thus, accommodate our muslim constituents & visitors during the prayer time in the most convenient space.

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) through various issuances supports policy development and implementation of services and facilities for Muslim patients, employees, and affiliates, as per *Memorandum No. 47, s. 2003 on establishment of prayer room within the hospital*;

WHEREAS, the Islamic faith mandates our Muslim brothers and sisters to pray five times each day, observing daily prayers. As such, it is imperative for the free exercise of their Islamic faith prayer rooms be made available where they can perform their prayer in a quiet, dry and clean place;

WHEREAS, thru the intervention and support of the government, the Provincial Local Government of Davao Oriental established prayer rooms in all government hospitals, and encouraged private health institutions to do the same. As such, the commitment of the government to the Muslim people will be fulfilled;

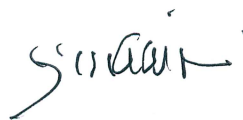
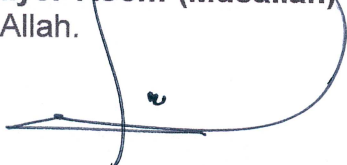
WHEREFORE, on motion of SP Member Daud V. Linsag, duly and jointly seconded by SP Members Rotchie M. Ravelo, Eleuterio C. Manaytay, and Jossone Michael G. Dayanghirang, it was

Be it ordained by the 17TH Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Davao Oriental in session duly assembled, that:

Section 1. Short Title. – This ordinance shall be known as ***“The Muslim Prayer Rooms (Musallahs) within the province-owned tourism facilities and public hospitals and other government institutions in the Province of Davao Oriental”***

Section 2. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

1. **Islam** – a monotheistic religion/faith that is defined primarily by the belief in the submission to the One True God Alone, and accepting Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the final prophet of God.
2. **Muslim** – shall refer to a person who professes Islam as his/her religion observes tenets and principle of Islam.
3. **Prayer Room (Musallah)** – a quiet place design for the worship of the Muslims to Allah.



4. **Qiblah** – shall refer to the direction that should be face when a Muslim prays.
5. **Salah** – is the principle form of worship in Islam. Obligatory Muslim prayer performed five times each day by muslims.

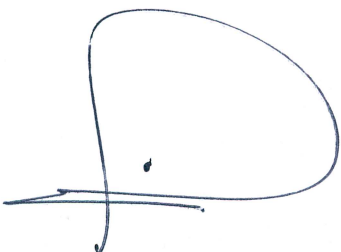
Section 3. Public Prayer Room Area (Musallah)

- a. A public prayer room (**Musallah**) or set-up prayer area, with nearby or adjacent restroom for the performance of “Wudhu” or Ablution, shall be available in the Accommodation Establishment for in-house and/or non-billeted guests attending a function therein.
- b. There shall be a separate prayer area for men and women. If separate rooms are not available, a barrier or a separator must be installed, such as a screen or curtain to divide the room for separate use of Muslim men and women.
- c. The public prayer room/area shall be equipped with a prayer mat or with carpeted flooring for the comfort of the Muslim guests.
- d. A Qiblah directional sticker and a Muslim Holy Book (Qur’an) must also be placed in the public prayer room.
- e. Clean water supply in common restrooms, with bidets or hand showers for the performance of Wudhu or Ablution, shall be provided, particularly those restrooms which are nearby or adjacent to a public prayer room or set –up prayer area, and
- f. The public prayer room (Musallah) and Ablution areas must be located in a suitable area, away from the entertainment, loading or garbage disposal area, and shall be kept clean at all times.

Section 4. GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, & ESTABLISHING MUSLIM PRAYER ROOMS IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS & ESTATES IN DAVAO ORIENTAL. In designing a Muslim Prayer Room (Musallah) in public buildings in Davao Oriental, it shall incorporate specific religious, cultural, & architectural considerations to create respectful, functional spaces, and in line with Islamic practices. Specific guidelines shall be formulated by the Provincial Engineering Office to be approved by the Inter-Agency Monitoring Committee created under this ordinance.

Section 5. INTER-AGENCY MONITORING COMMITTEE. - For purposes of the proper implementation, compliance and monitoring of progress of this ordinance, there is hereby created a committee which shall be composed with the following members, to wit;

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| a. Chairman | – | Provincial Governor
or his duly assigned representative |
| b. Vice-Chairman | – | Head of the Sultanate Office of Davao Oriental |
| c. Members | – | SP Chairperson of the Muslim Affairs
Committee |
| | | Provincial Engineer
or his duly assigned representative |
| | | Provincial Health Officer
or his duly assigned representative |
| | | Provincial Tourism Officer
or his duly assigned representative |



Provincial Head of the National Commission
of Muslim Filipinos (NCMF)

Section 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any reason any portion or provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All ordinances, resolutions, memoranda orders and other local issuances which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. EFFECTIVITY. – This Ordinance shall take effect after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Province of Davao Oriental.

ENACTED: September 18, 2024

CARRIED, by (8) affirmative votes of SP Members Anna Cheryl N. Castro, Harold A. Montes, Rotchie M. Ravelo, Daud V. Linsag, Andy A. Monday, Jossone Michael G. Dayanghirang, Eleuterio C. Manaytay, and Shanine C. Lintogonan; negative votes – none; and abstention - none.

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I hereby Certify to the Correctness
of the foregoing Ordinance.


MAXIMINO A. NAZARENO II
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

Attested and Certified
to be duly Adopted:


NELSON R. DAYANGHIRANG, JR.
Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


NIÑO SOTERO L. UY, JR.
Governor

Date approved
and signed SEP 30 2024