Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1012

Introduced By: Representative Shernee A. Tan

A RESOLUTION URGING THE HONORABLE SPEAKER ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" CAYETANO TO PROVIDE A PRAYER ROOM FOR BELIEVERS OF ISLAM IN THE PREMISES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is the august body of elected officials, who represent their respective legislative district from the different cities and provinces in the entire archipelago;

WHEREAS, as this revered institution is home to distinguished Members, staff and numerous employees, not to mention visitors, who belong to different religious beliefs, it does not curtail the free exercise of religion;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that Members, staff and employees of the House of Representatives, who are Roman Catholics, have been attending religious services more often than at the spacious Lobby, and now regularly in the Library of the House of Representatives Building, and other Christian denominations are holding prayer meetings in some vacant Conference Rooms or in office cubicles, while most believers of Islam settle in some places not really conducive for praying or meditation;

WHEREAS, Muslim religious practices, unlike other religions, regard them as compulsory religious duties as Islam mandates that believers perform prayer five times each day, of which two (2) of the five (5) daily prayers, Dhuhr (between noon and mid-afternoon) and Asr (between mid-afternoon and sunset) fall within the 9-5 working hours of the day;

WHEREAS, it is worthy to mention that in our country, practically all government buildings, military camps, hospitals, and even in privately-owned malls, large factories, hospitals and other big business establishments, there is a Roman Catholic Chapel and if this is a way of respecting the free exercise of one’s religious belief then it is also fair to provide another prayer room where the Muslims or other non-Catholic religious sectors may freely exercise their faith, without discrimination or preference;
WHEREAS, in view of the nature how the Muslims act during worship like, standing, bowing, and touching the forehead to the ground, and these acts of worship are to be performed in any quiet, dry and clean place, a prayer room is necessary for some measure of privacy. Now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, To Urge the Honorable Speaker Alan Peter “Companero” Cayetano to provide a prayer room for believers of Islam in the premises of the House of Representatives.

Approved,

[Signature]

SHERNEE A. TAN
Representative
Kusug Tausug Partylist