



Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6808



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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE BIÑAN HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN A**  
**NATIONAL HISTORICAL - CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE, APPROPRIATE**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The provisions of Article XIV, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "***the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations***". Likewise it provides in Section 16 that "***all the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition***".

Heritage serves as a source of identity. Over and above, the role of heritage is important for empowering local communities and allowing the members of the society to fully engage in social and cultural life. The history and cultural heritage of a country are priceless and distinctive; the same is true for the histories and heritages each of the regions, provinces, towns and cities has.

Heritage conservation and preservation is vital. Not only it preserves historical structures and artifacts, it also preserves a sense of connection and belongingness among the members of the community. Conserving and preserving culture is essential to community development. It helps preserve natural resources, improve

and strengthen communities, promote local economic growth, draw tourists, emphasize the importance of heritage in education, and imparting the responsibility of heritage conservation to the current generation.

This measure seeks to reinforce the important role of the State and its Local Government Units in the development, promotion and preservation of the nation's cultural heritage thereby strengthening the people's nationalism, love of country, respect for its heroes and pride for the people's accomplishments as exemplified in Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160), National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 (RA 10066), and Strengthening People's Nationalism Through Philippine History Act (RA 10086).

The proposed declaration of a National Historical-Cultural Heritage Zone shall be the foreground of the State's commitment to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as its artistic creations.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE**  
Lone District of Biñan



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

**SECTION 1.** *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Biñan Heritage Zone Act”.

**SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to undertake initiatives that will protect, preserve, conserve and promote the nation’s historical and cultural heritage, property, and artistic creations.

Toward this end, the State shall establish historical – cultural heritage zones following internationally-accepted standards that improve, promote, and preserve the richness, quality, and exceptional culture of the Philippines and influence people’s perceptions of our nation.

**SECTION 3.** *Coverage.* — This Act shall apply to cultural properties ranging from cultural treasures, important cultural properties, heritage sites, historical shrines, historical monuments, historical landmarks, archaeological and traditional ethnographic materials, works of national heroes, marked structures, structures dating at least fifty (50) years old, and archival materials/documents dating at least fifty (50) years old within the City of Biñan, Laguna.

**SECTION 4.** *Biñan National Historical and Cultural Heritage Zone.* — The Biñan Heritage District comprising of the Plaza Rizal, V. Ocampo Street and J. Gonzales Street in the City of Biñan is hereby declared a heritage zone as defined in Article II, Section 3 (q) and Article III, Sections 4 and 5 of Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”.

As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Local Government of the City of Biñan, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies, National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the conservation and preservation of heritage zones following internationally-accepted standards.

For the purpose of this Act, the built heritage sites in the historical and cultural heritage zone shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Biñan Plaza Complex including Jose Rizal Monument and Los Maduros Bandstand;
- b. Sentrong Pangkultura ng Biñan (Old Municipal Hall);
- c. Historic Alberto Mansion;
- d. Casa Biñanense;
- e. San Isidro Labrador Catholic Church, Meditation Garden and Belfry;
- f. School of Rizal Site and Museum;
- g. Heroes Memorial
- h. Casa Parroquial (Biñan Cursillo House);
- i. Vicente Ocampo House;
- j. Francisco Almeda House;
- k. Francisco Baylon House;
- l. Conrado Potenciano House
- m. Iluminado Valencia House; and
- n. Pedro-Isidro Cariño House;

**SECTION 5.** *Biñan Heritage Zone Development Plan.* — The City Government of Biñan shall prepare a comprehensive Biñan Heritage Zone Development Plan. In the preparation of this plan, all the parties interested in protection, preservation, conservation, restoration and promotion of the city's cultural heritage, its property and histories into the preparation of the study and the development plan and ensure the participation of organizations and individual participants shall be consulted in public hearings and drafting sessions.

The preparation of the plan shall be in coordination with Department of Tourism, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, NHCP, TIEZA, and the DPWH.

Research shall be conducted on the heritage sites' architectural, artistic, social, political, and personal histories and incorporated into the plan in order to assist concerned government agencies and stakeholders with the process of adaptive reuse, the creation of manuals, and the identification of additional suitable business ventures that can be supported in the district.

**SECTION 6.** *Report and Review* — Within the year of the implementation of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the City Government of Biñan shall render an annual report to both houses of Congress. The City Government of Biñan shall submit a report describing a summary of the following:

- a. the status of the Biñan Historical and Cultural Heritage Zone under this Act;
- b. accomplishments of Biñan Heritage Zone Development Plan established through this Act; and
- c. the types and volume of assistance and services provided to stakeholders within the Biñan Historical and Cultural Heritage Zone.

**SECTION 7.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Local Government of the City of Biñan, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, NHCP, TIEZA, and the DPWH, in consultation with the stakeholders, shall

promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

The City Council of the City Government of Biñan shall pass a city ordinance to operationalize appropriately the management of the Biñan Historical and Cultural Heritage Zone, including all the heritage site, national cultural treasures, important cultural property and archaeological and anthropological sites designated as intrinsic thereto, in accordance with the development plan and in line with the objectives and provisions of R.A. No. 10066 and this Act. The ordinance shall likewise include the metes and bounds of the Heritage Zone established pursuant to this Act.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the preservation, protection, study, restoration and promotion of the cultural and historical integrity of the geographical area represented by the Heritage Zone shall receive priority development attention, assistance, and funding from the DOT and its attached agencies, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, and from the DPWH subject to existing appropriate government rules and regulations.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* — In the event that any part, section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this Act accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved.*