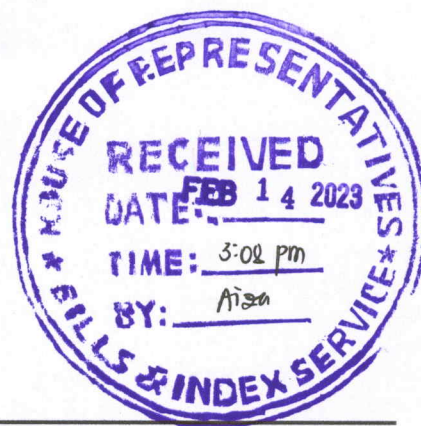


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7161



INTRODUCED BY HON. DANILO A. DOMINGO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the developments in the Municipality of Bulakan, especially with the creation of the airport therein, the historical and cultural heritage of the municipality is threatened with deterioration and destruction. The State should therefore endeavor to create a balanced atmosphere where the historic past coexists in harmony with modern society.

Sections 15 and 16, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. It further provides 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.

As the pandemic subsides, authorities such as the Department of Tourism (DOT) and even the World Tourism and Travel Council (WTTC) highlighted the upward trajectory of the tourism industry in the country. The DOT has committed to aiding the revival of Bulacan's tourism in culinary, farm, and ecological tourism. However, there is still more room to grow in terms of cultural tourism not only in preserving culture and history, but also in strengthening identity, creating new job opportunities, and promoting competitiveness in a crowded marketplace.

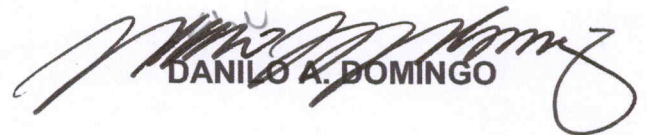
This bill proposes to create a heritage zone within the Municipality of Bulakan in the First Congressional District of the Province of Bulacan for the preservation and protection of its historical sites and cultural heritage. Not only will the passage of this bill contribute to the cultural awareness and relevance of the sites, but it will also push for developments that are in line with the modernization of the Municipality. With the establishment of the airport in Bulakan, the Bulakan Heritage Zone will create more opportunities to further strengthen the appreciation of the people of its own culture and history, while encouraging tourism in the area.

The Municipality of Bulakan is a 444-year-old town and the first and former provincial capital of the Province of Bulacan. Since the municipality's establishment, it has borne witness to many significant events in the country's history, was home to national heroes who fought for our independence, and has been a cradle of native arts and culture. It is where prominent Filipino general Gregorio del Pilar covertly distributed the pamphlets made by Marcelo H. del Pilar, his uncle and notable member of the Propaganda Movement in the

Spanish Era. It is the home of Pedro Serrano Laktaw, the first Filipino lexicographer whose works convinced the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino to build one of its Bantayog-Wika in Bulakan as a monument to preserve and enrich Tagalog language.

Aside from the prominent personalities and historical figures who hailed from the Municipality of Bulakan, the town itself boasts of its rich culture through its structures and historic sites. Several establishments in the Municipality of Bulakan are already recognized historical shrines, houses, and markers. Among its heritage sites are: the Parish Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion of Bulakan, which prides itself of being the oldest Roman Catholic church in the Municipality of Bulakan, having been erected almost 400 years ago; the Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Shrine, which is a memorial to Marcelo H. Del Pilar, whose remains were buried in the same area; the General Gregorio del Pilar Historical Landmark in Barrio San Jose where General Gregorio del Pilar was born; and several other ancestral houses, such as Tahanang-Angkan ng Enriquez, Tahanang-Angkan ng Pascual, Tahanang-Angkan ng Rodrigo, Tahanang-Angkan ng Meneses, and Tahanang-Angkan ni Sen. Soc Rodrigo, where the spirit of the municipality's tremendous history and culture lives on.

In line with preserving the rich history and culture of the Municipality of Bulakan amidst modernization, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



DANILO A. DOMINGO

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HERITAGE ZONE WITHIN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BULAKAN, PROVINCE OF BULACAN**

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

SECTION 1. A Heritage Zone, as defined and provided for by Article II, Section 3(q) and Article IV, Sections 12 and 13 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," is hereby established within the Municipality of Bulakan, Province of Bulacan in order to protect the historical and cultural integrity of the area.

The Heritage Zone shall include the cultural properties declared as National Cultural Treasures and Important Cultural Properties as well as the National Historical Landmarks, Shrines, Monuments, and Sites, and such other immovable, movable, or intangible cultural properties whether publicly or privately owned, as may be designated for inclusion therein by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies, in coordination with the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan and other concerned agencies and government entities.

The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Province of Bulacan, the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan and the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, shall immediately prepare the development plan involving the preservation, conservation, restoration, and maintenance of cultural and historical sites and structures for the enhancement and sustainability of tourism in the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan: *Provided*, That the NCCA shall approve only those methods and materials that strictly adhere to the accepted international standards of conservation in undertaking conservation and restoration works, as provided for in Section 15 of R.A. No. 10066.

Within the period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan shall pass a municipal ordinance to operationalize appropriately the management of its Heritage Zone, including all the cultural properties 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.

SEC. 2. The preservation, protection, study, 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 NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, and from the DOT and its attached agencies, subject to existing appropriate government rules and regulations.

SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan, the NCCA, and concerned cultural agencies of the government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules, regulations, issuances, and enactments or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,