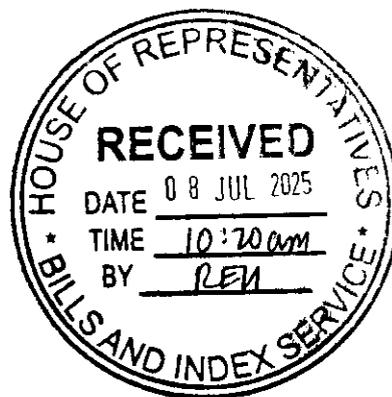




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1561**

---

**Introduced by Representative WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**

---

**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 provide 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. Furthermore, the role of heritage is crucial in empowering local communities and enabling society's members to engage in social and cultural life fully. The history and cultural heritage of a country are

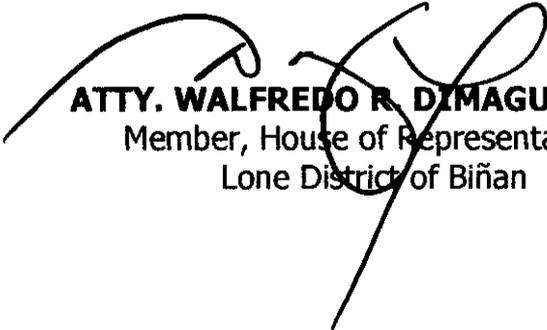
priceless and distinctive; the same is true for the histories and heritages of each region, province, town, and city.

Heritage conservation and preservation are vital. Not only does it preserve historical structures and artifacts, but it also fosters a sense of connection and belonging among community members. Conserving and preserving culture is essential to community development. It helps preserve natural resources, improves and strengthens communities, promotes local economic growth, attracts tourists, emphasizes the importance of heritage in education, and instills the responsibility of heritage conservation in 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.



**ATTY. WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**  
Member, House of Representatives  
Lone District of Biñan



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1561**

---

**Introduced by Representative WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**

---

**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**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Biñan Heritage Zone Act".

2

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

6

7           Toward this end, the State shall establish historical-cultural heritage zones in  
8 accordance with internationally accepted standards, thereby improving, promoting,

9 and preserving the richness, quality, and exceptional culture of the Philippines, and  
10 influencing people's perceptions of our nation.

11  
12 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to cultural properties ranging from  
13 cultural treasures, important cultural properties, heritage sites, historical shrines,  
14 historical monuments, historical landmarks, archaeological and traditional  
15 ethnographic materials, works of national heroes, marked structures, structures dating  
16 at least fifty (50) years old, and archival materials/documents dating at least fifty (50)  
17 years old within the City of Biñan, Laguna.

18  
19 **SEC. 4. Biñan National Historical and Cultural Heritage Zone.** – Biñan  
20 Heritage District comprising of the Plaza Rizal, V. Ocampo Street and J. Gonzales Street  
21 in the City of Biñan is hereby declared a heritage zone as defined in Article II, Section  
22 3 (q) and Article III, Sections 4 and 5 of Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as  
23 the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009".

24  
25 As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism  
26 (DOT), in coordination with the Local Government of the City of Biñan, the National  
27 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies,  
28 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Tourism Infrastructure and  
29 Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Department of Public Works and Highways  
30 (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall be subject to the rules  
31 and regulations governing the conservation and preservation of heritage zones  
32 following internationally-accepted standards.

33  
34 For the purpose of this Act, the built heritage sites in the historical and cultural  
35 heritage zone shall include, but are not limited to the following:

36

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

52

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

60

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

63

64 Research shall be conducted on the heritage sites' architectural, artistic, social,  
65 political, and personal histories and incorporated into the plan to assist concerned

66 government agencies and stakeholders with the process of adaptive reuse, the creation  
67 of manuals, and the identification of additional suitable business ventures that can be  
68 supported in the district.

69

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

74

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

81

82 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** — Within ninety (90)  
83 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with  
84 the Local Government of the City of Biñan, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies,  
85 NHCP, TIEZA, and the DPWH, in consultation with the stakeholders, shall promulgate  
86 the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

87

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

95           **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the preservation,  
96 protection, study, restoration and promotion of the cultural and historical integrity of  
97 the geographical area represented by the Heritage Zone shall receive priority  
98 development attention, assistance, and funding from the DOT and its attached  
99 agencies, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, and from the DPWH subject to  
100 existing appropriate government rules and regulations.

101  
102           **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - If any part, section, or provision of this Act  
103 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the remaining  
104 provisions thereof shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if the sections or  
105 provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

106           **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,  
107 rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are  
108 hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as the case may be by this Act  
109 accordingly.

110  
111           **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
112 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
113 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*