

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



23 JAN 25 P3:54

SENATE

S. No. 1768

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

**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

Before the Spanish *conquistadores* (conquerors) came to the Philippine archipelago in the 16th century, the shores of Laguna de Baý were already inhabited by settlers from Baý, and some from the island of Mindoro, who traded local produce for Chinese porcelains and potteries. It was Captain Juan de Salcedo who rediscovered and founded Biñan at the end of June 1571, when he explored the largest freshwater lake in the Philippines and second in Asia (Laguna de Bay).

Since then, Biñan has developed into a significant center of commerce in the province of Laguna. The city is home to the largest public market not just in province of Laguna but the whole Southern Tagalog region. Retailers from neighboring towns frequently shop in the city for products and commodities to sell elsewhere.

Ancestral houses built centuries ago line up the streets leading to Biñan's main plaza. Beyond their architectural wonders, heritage houses were given various functions like some that were converted into a museum, cultural center, commercial center and hotels, where residents have allowed visitors to enter their heritage houses

to learn more about their histories, buy their need, grab their souvenirs, have a taste of their traditional food and take some photos.

The origins of one of our national heroes, Jose Rizal, may be traced back to Biñan, where his grandparents lived and held the office of *capitan de pueblo*, or *mayor*, respectively. According to records from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the Biñan's local government showed that Rizal's great-grandfather, Francisco Mercado, who owned the largest herd of carabaos in Biñan, served as mayor of the city in 1783; while Rizal's grandfather, Juan Mercado, served as mayor of Biñan in 1808, 1813, and 1823. On his maternal side, Rizal's great-grandfather, Cipriano Alonso, served as mayor of Biñan in 1790 and 1802 and his grandfather Lorenzo Alberto Alonso served as mayor in 1844.

Biñan has one of the biggest concentrations of old houses in the province of Laguna. They play a crucial role in the city's and the country's historical and cultural heritage. The personal and social histories of these residences add to our understanding of the culture, art, style, history, and traditions of this city and our nation. Therefore, it is crucial to declare these historic structures as part of a national heritage zone in order to strengthen our people's nationalism, love of country, respect for its heroes, and pride in the people's accomplishments.

As a nation that recognizes the importance of its historical and cultural heritage, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT

**DECLARING THE BIÑAN HERITAGE DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN A
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FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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.

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

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

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

- 16 a. Biñan Plaza Complex including Jose Rizal Monument and Los Maduros
17 Bandstand;
- 18 b. Sentrong Pangkultura ng Biñan (Old Municipal Hall);
- 19 c. Historic Alberto Mansion;
- 20 d. Casa Biñanense;
- 21 e. San Isidro Labrador Catholic Church, Meditation Garden and Belfry;
- 22 f. School of Rizal Site and Museum;
- 23 g. Heroes Memorial
- 24 h. Casa Parroquial (Biñan Cursillo House);
- 25 i. Vicente Ocampo House;
- 26 j. Francisco Almeda House;

- 1 k. Francisco Baylon House;
- 2 l. Conrado Potenciano House
- 3 m. Iluminado Valencia House; and
- 4 n. Pedro-Isidro Cariño House;

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. — Within ninety (90)
2 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with
3 the Local Government of the City of Biñan, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural
4 agencies, NHCP, TIEZA, and the DPWH, in consultation with the stakeholders, shall
5 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this
6 Act.

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

14 SECTION 8. *Appropriations*. — The amount necessary for the preservation,
15 protection, study, restoration and promotion of the cultural and historical integrity of
16 the geographical area represented by the Heritage Zone shall receive priority
17 development attention, assistance, and funding from the DOT and its attached
18 agencies, the NCCA and its affiliated cultural agencies, and from the DPWH subject to
19 existing appropriate government rules and regulations.

20 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*. — In the event that any part, section or
21 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court,
22 the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if
23 the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

24 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, decrees, executive orders,
25 issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of
26 this Act are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this
27 Act accordingly.

1 SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

4 *Approved,*