



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8664

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHUA, ROMULO, CO (E.), ACIDRE, DY (F.M.C.), GATO, PLEYTO, DOMINGO, ESCUDERO, MAGSINO, ROQUE, MIGUEL, OLASO, RAMA, CHAN, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, PUMAREN, DELOS SANTOS, CO-PILAR, DEL MAR, HERNANDEZ, CARI, CORVERA, GARCIA (D.), MANQUIZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SAULOG, FRESNEDI, PADIERNOS, AQUINO, TARRIELA, BOSITA, EMANO, DUJALI, EUDELA, SOLON, COLLANTES, DIMAPORO (S.A.) AND CAMPOS

AN ACT

DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF QUIAPO CHURCH, PLAZA MIRANDA, SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH, PLAZA DEL CARMEN, QUEZON BRIDGE, THE LIFE THEATRE OR OLD VILLONGCO BUILDING, AND OTHER BUILT HERITAGE WITH NOTABLE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AS NATIONAL HERITAGE ZONE, PROVIDING FOR THEIR RESTORATION, REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Quiapo Heritage Zone
2 Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to protect, preserve, and conserve the nation's cultural heritage, its properties and
6 history, and the traditions of local communities.

7
8 To this end, the State shall endeavor to designate heritage zones to protect the
9 historical and cultural integrity of a geographical area and deepen our sense of unity,
10 belonging and national pride.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Quiapo Heritage Zone.** – As provided for in Article II, Section 3(q)
13 and Article IV, Sections 12 and 13 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10066, otherwise known
14 as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”, there is hereby established a heritage
15 zone in the immediate environs of Quiapo Church, Plaza Miranda, San Sebastian
16 Church, Plaza Del Carmen, Quezon Bridge, The Life Theatre or Old Villongco Building,
17 and other built heritage with notable historical and cultural significance.

1 The Quiapo Heritage Zone shall be bounded on the west by Evangelista Street,
2 wrapping around the properties surrounding Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda; on
3 the north by rear property lines of buildings facing Escaldo Street and F. R. Hidalgo
4 Street, continuing northwest along the rear property lines of buildings facing San
5 Sebastian Street and northeast along Recto Avenue; on the east bounded by the side
6 property lines of the San Sebastian College complex and Plaza del Carmen; and on
7 the south, following the south bank of the Estero de Quiapo and wrapping around the
8 rear property lines of buildings facing Hidalgo Street and A. Bautista Street.
9

10 The Quiapo Heritage Zone shall also include the traditional route of the Feast
11 of the Black Nazarene procession to sustain socio-cultural practice within the heritage
12 zone. It shall have an established core and buffer zones.
13

14 The City Government of Manila shall, in coordination with the National Historical
15 Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Commission for Culture and the Arts
16 (NCCA), and other concerned stakeholders, conduct a public hearing to consult the
17 owners of affected sites and structures, designated representatives of the community,
18 cultural heritage organizations, religious organizations, and heritage preservation
19 professionals, such as architects, historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and
20 sociologists, in order to determine and identify the specific sites and structures to be
21 declared as part of the Quiapo Heritage Zone: *Provided*, That the owners of the sites
22 and structures which shall be identified to become part of the Quiapo Heritage Zone
23 during the public hearing shall be included in the formulation of the implementing
24 rules and regulations of this Act.
25

26 The Quiapo Heritage Zone shall be accorded priority development by the
27 Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned national government agencies and
28 local government units (LGUs) and shall be subject to existing laws and rules and
29 regulations governing the development of national heritage zones.
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31 **SEC. 4. Development Plan of the Quiapo Heritage Zone.** – Within the
32 period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in partnership
33 with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), Department
34 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Human Settlements and Urban
35 Development, the City Government of Manila, NHCP, NCCA, and other concerned
36 government agencies, prepare the development plan involving the restoration,
37 rehabilitation, conservation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities: *Provided*,
38 That said development shall ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage and the
39 historical significance of the identified areas: *Provided, further*, That the NHCP and
40 NCCA shall approve only those methods and materials that strictly adhere to the
41 accepted international standards of conservation in undertaking conservation and
42 restoration works, as provided for in Section 15 of RA 10066: *Provided, finally*, That
43 the City Government of Manila shall pass a city ordinance to operationalize
44 appropriately the management of the Quiapo Heritage Zone, including all the cultural
45 properties designated as intrinsic thereto, in accordance with the development plan
46 and in line with the objectives and provisions of RA 10066 and this Act.

1 A comprehensive Conservation Management Plan is likewise created, which
2 shall be headed by a site manager, to be designated by the City Government of Manila
3 and assisted by the NHCP, who shall commit and sustain this undertaking and shall
4 serve as the guide for the conduct of a thorough cultural mapping and for the
5 development of the site.

6
7 All plans for the development and conservation of the Quiapo Heritage Zone
8 shall be based on consultations and coordination with the civil society – designated
9 representatives of the communities to be affected by the plans, cultural heritage
10 organizations, religious organizations, and heritage preservation professionals.

11
12 **SEC. 5. Coordination with National Government Agencies and LGUs.** –
13 The DOT shall, together with the TIEZA and DPWH and in coordination with the NHCP,
14 NCCA, and the City Government of Manila, set forth, incorporate in the infrastructure
15 program, and implement the necessary construction and/or improvement of roads and
16 other infrastructure upon the effectivity of this Act.

17
18 **SEC. 6. Exemption from Real Property Tax.** – Private properties
19 designated as Important Cultural Property or National Cultural Treasure as declared
20 by the NHCP or the NCCA shall be exempt from the Real Property Tax: *Provided*, That
21 the owners of these private properties shall be responsible in the restoration,
22 rehabilitation, conservation, and maintenance of their respective properties: *Provided*,
23 *further*, That in the event the owner inappropriately or unnecessarily introduces
24 intervention, damage, and degradation so severe as to diminish or destroy the
25 heritage significance, the owner shall be fined with the corresponding back taxes.

26
27 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The NHCP shall, in
28 consultation with the NCCA, DOT, TIEZA, DPWH, City Government of Manila, and other
29 official regulatory agencies and concerned stakeholders, promulgate the rules and
30 regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The Secretaries of the DOT and the DPWH shall
33 include in their programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
34 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

35
36 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – Should any portion or provision of this Act
37 be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other portions or
38 provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

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40 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
41 implementation, rules and regulations or part or parts thereof inconsistent with any
42 provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

43
44 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
45 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,