

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10113**



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Introduced by Representative Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas

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AN ACT  
DECLARING THE CITY OF DIGOS IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR  
A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to conserve, develop, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as its artistic creations. It further provides that all the country’s artistic and historic wealth constitute the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be protected by the State, which may regulate its disposition.

The historical development of Digos City in Davao Del Sur displays various degrees of significant events which led to its transformation into a politically and economically competitive city in the Davao Region. Being the crossroad to of three major cities in Mindanao – Davao City in the North, Kidapawan City in the west, and General Santos City in the south. Digos City served as a gateway for various ethnic groups and migrants and a melting pot of historical and cultural transformation which shaped the values, beliefs customs and traditions of the people of Davao Del Sur.

The proposed bill seeks to declare the City of Digos in the Province of Davao Del Sur as a cultural heritage zone to preserve the cultural heritage of the City so that the future generation can also appreciate and learn from its past, traditions, way of life, values and beliefs. This representation believes that cultural heritage provides an irrefutable connection to the past and is central in establishing one’s identity.

It is for the foregoing reason that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
MERCEDES “DIDI” C. CAGAS

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Digos City Cultural Heritage Zone Act”.

**SEC. 2.** The Constitution mandates the State to conserve, develop, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as its artistic creations. It further provides that all the country’s artistic and historic wealth constitute the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be protected by the State, which may regulate its disposition.

Towards this end, the promotion and preservation of the cultural and historical landmarks that highlight the uniqueness and beauty of Digos City shall be pursued in the development and management of its tourism industry, cultural heritage and sources.

**SEC. 3.** The City of Digos in the Province of Davao Del Sur is hereby declared a cultural heritage zone. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the City Government of Digos and other concerned agencies of the government, and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage zones.

As used in this Act, cultural heritage zones refer to historical, anthropological, archaeological, artistic geographical areas and settings that are culturally significant to the country.

**SEC. 4.** The DOT, in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), Provincial Government of Davao Del Sur, and the City Government of Digos, shall immediately prepare the development plan involving the preservation, conservation, restoration, and maintenance of cultural and historical sites and structures for the enhancement of tourism in Digos City: *Provided*, That the NCCA shall approve only those methods and materials that strictly adhere to the accepted international standards of conservation and restoration works, as provided for in Section 15 of Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”.

**SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the NCCA, TIEZA, NHCP, NMP, Provincial Government of Davao Del Sur, and the City Government of Digos, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**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,*