



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of the Davao del Sur  
City of Digos



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

**8<sup>TH</sup> CITY COUNCIL**

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF DIGOS CITY, DAVAO DEL SUR HELD ON MAY 8, 2023 AT THE SP SESSION HALL

**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2023-150**

Authors: Hon. Liza M. Cagas Hon. Reynaldo T. Aballe Hon. Xymber M. Latasa  
Hon. Michael R. Latasa Hon. Ferdinand D. Canastra Hon. Salvador L. Dumogho, III  
Hon. Nestor M. Aldeguer, Jr. Hon. Juanito O. Morales Hon. Linda E. Regidor Hon. Korina A. Bucol

PRESENT:	Hon. Marc Dominic R. Fernandez	SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer
	Hon. Liza M. Cagas	SP Member
	Hon. Reynaldo T. Aballe	SP Member
	Hon. Xymber M. Latasa	SP Member
	Hon. Michael R. Latasa	SP Member
	Hon. Ferdinand D. Canastra	SP Member
	Hon. Salvador L. Dumogho, III	SP Member
	Hon. Nestor M. Aldeguer, Jr.	SP Member
	Hon. Juanito O. Morales	SP Member/LnB Rep.
	Hon. Linda E. Regidor	SP Member/IPMR
	Hon. Korina A. Bucol	SP Member/SK Pederasyon Pres.
ABSENT:	Hon. Johari G. Baña	City Vice Mayor – On Leave
	Hon. Concepcion R. Cadungog	SP Member – On Leave
	Hon. Reynaldo S. Hermosissima	SP Member – On Leave

**REVISED MT. APO NATURAL PARK (MANP) MOUNTAINEERING AND TREKKING ORDINANCE OF DIGOS CITY 2023**

Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Digos City in session assembled:

**ARTICLE I  
GENERAL PROVISION**

**SECTION 1. TITLE** – This ordinance shall be known as the **“Revised Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) Mountaineering and Trekking Ordinance of Digos City 2023.”**

**SECTION 2. THE AUTHORITY.** – This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the following laws, to wit:

**a. Republic Act 7160 – The Local Government Code of 1991.**

Chapter 2, Section 17 provides that, Local Government Unit shall endeavor to be self-reliant and shall continue exercising the powers and discharging the duties and functions currently vested upon them. They shall also discharge the functions and responsibilities as are necessary, appropriate, or incidental to efficient and effective provision of the basic services and facilities, which include the following:

1. 2(vi) Solid waste disposal system or environmental management system and services or facilities related to general hygiene and sanitation;
2. 2(xi) Tourism facilities and other tourist attractions, including the acquisition of equipment, regulation and supervision of business concessions, and security services for such facilities; and
3. 3(xii) Tourism development and promotion programs.

*Josef F. Cagas*  
**JOSEF F. CAGAS, RN, JD, MPA**  
City Mayor

*Marc Dominic R. Fernandez*  
**ATTY. MARC DOMINIC R. FERNANDEZ**  
SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

*Elvie R. Barril*  
**ELVIE R. BARRIL, MPA**  
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**b. Republic Act No. 7586 – NIPAS Act of 1992.**

Section 2. Declaration of Policy – Cognizant to the profound impact of man’s Activities on all components of the natural environment particularly the effect or increasing population, resource exploitation and industrial advancement and Res. No. 15-265/City Ord. No. 15-07 (Nov. 19, 2015) recognizing the critical importance of protecting and maintaining the natural biological and physical diversities of the environment notably on the areas with biologically unique features to sustain human life, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino People of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.

It is hereby recognized that these areas, although distinct in features, possess common ecological values that may be incorporated into a holistic plan representative of our natural heritage; that effective administration of these areas is possible only through cooperation among national government, local government and concerned private organizations; that the use and enjoyment of protected areas must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustained development.

To this end, there is hereby established a National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which shall encompass outstanding remarkable areas and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and endangered species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as “protected areas”.

**c. Republic Act No. 9237 – Mt. Apo Protected Area Act of 2003.**

Chapter 1. Section 2. Declaration of Policy – Considering Mt. Apo’s aesthetic, economic, cultural, and ecological importance and its unique biological resources, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure its protection and conservation and those of the indigenous peoples and communities residing therein as well as their culture and way of life. In so doing, the State shall:

- (a) ensure the protection and conservation of biodiversity in Mt. Apo through sustainable participatory development;
- (b) advance, respect and protect the customs and interests of its legitimate inhabitants, migrants, and indigenous peoples alike; and
- (c) foster partnership among government, non-government organizations, and people’s organizations.

**SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY** – Aware of the fact that the Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) has an immense natural diversity of flora and fauna and is the major watershed of several provinces namely: Cotabato Province, Bukidnon, Davao City and Davao del Sur where Digos City is located, and that its natural endowments have been altered by intensive and irresponsible human activities threatening the maintenance of the hydrologic regime and the survival of many wildlife, flora and fauna, it is hereby declared the policy of the city to coordinate among stakeholders to ensure the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use and enjoyment of the natural endowment and protection of watershed within the MANP-Digos Area.

**SECTION 4. SCOPE AND COVERAGE** – The scope and coverage of this Ordinance shall apply to all climbing/mountaineering/trekking, guiding, portering, garbage disposal, and rescue activities, as well as campsite management in the seven barangays within the Mt. Apo Natural Park, to wit: Goma, Dulangan, Balabag, Ruparan, Soong, Binaton, and Kapatagan.

  
JOSEF F. CABAS, RN, JD, MPA  
City Mayor

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**SECTION 5. OBJECTIVES** –The objectives of this Ordinance are the following:

1. To promote responsible mountaineering/trekking among enthusiasts and stakeholders;
2. To regulate and monitor mountaineering and trekking activities inside MANP within the jurisdiction of Digos City;
3. To enhance eco-tourism with emphasis on environmental concerns and social development;
4. To develop mountaineers'/trekkers' management program; and
5. To prescribe appropriate fees and penalties including but not limited to permit and accreditation fees and fines.

**ARTICLE II  
DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**SECTION 6.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms, words or phrases shall mean:

- 1.) Accreditation – the act by which individual porters or guides are issued the certification by the City Government allowing them to engage in guiding and portering.
- 2.) Blacklist – a sanction declaring individual/s ineligible for issuance of mountaineering/trekking permit.
- 3.) Camping – refers to a recreational activity in which people live temporarily in the outdoors providing opportunities to challenge unfamiliar surroundings.
- 4.) Campsite – refers to an individual camping area in a single unit of land within a campground, for a camper to pitch a tent on.
- 5.) Guide – refers to a person who leads or directs another into established trail within MANP-Digos City.
- 6.) Porter – refers to a person employed to carry luggage and supplies or an attendant designated to carry and transport gears/equipment.
- 7.) Habitual Offender -- an Individual who has violated more than once the provisions of this Ordinance.
- 8.) Leave-No-Trace Principle - applies to outdoor ethics involving: trip planning and preparation, travelling and camping on durable surfaces, proper waste disposal, campfire impact, respect to wildlife, and preserving flora and fauna.
- 9.) Littering – refers to the act of scattering debris and wastes.
- 10.) Management – the exercise of executive, administrative and supervisory functions.
- 11.) Mountaineering – refers to climbing mountains, the sport or past time of climbing mountains.
- 12.) Mountaineering/Trekking Permit – refers to the permission granted, in written form by the City Government of Digos, allowing the applicant/s to engage in trekking and mountaineering activities.
- 13.) Mt. Apo Natural Park – Digos City or MANP – Digos – is a portion of the area declared as natural park under Republic Act No. 9237 located within the jurisdiction of Digos City. It covers an area of 160,890,000.00 square meters based on the boundaries stipulated under Republic Act No. 9237 and Republic Act No. 8798, the Charter of Digos City.

  
**JOSEF F. CAGAS, RN, JD, MPA**  
 City Mayor

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14.) Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) – as provided for under Republic Act No. 9237, the area covering certain parcel of land situated in the Municipalities of Magpet and Makilala and City of Kidapawan in the Province of Cotabato, Municipalities of Bansalan and Sta. Cruz, and City of Digos in the Province of Davao del Sur, and in the City of Digos; and containing an area of 549,744,724.32 square meters, more or less, declared a Protected Area under the category of Natural Park.

15.) NIPAS – National Integrated Protected Areas Systems

16.) PAMB – Protected Areas Management Board

17.) IPRA – Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act

18.) IPAF – Integrated Protected Area Fund

19.) PASu – Protected Area Superintendent

20.) DRRM – Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

21.) Participatory Development – active involvement of stakeholders in project needs assessment, project identification, project implementation, project operation and maintenance, project monitoring and evaluation.

22.) Protected Area – an identified portion of land and water within MANP – Digos or other areas in Digos City, which is set aside through an official declaration or by a law to be managed to enhance its biological diversity and to protect the same against destructive human exploitation.

23.) Solid Waste Disposal – shall refer to the discharge, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any solid waste into any land or body of water.

24.) Solid Waste Management – refers to the discipline associated with the control of generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport and disposal of solid waste, in a manner that is in accordance with the best principles of public health and environment protection.

25.) Stakeholders – individuals, communities, organizations, including local government units and national government agencies, which have particular interests in the achievement of the objectives of this Ordinance.

26.) Tourism – refers to the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of any activity remunerated from within the place visited.

27.) Trekking – refers to a long journey, specifically on foot and often over rough or mountainous terrain.

28.) Holy week – refers to Holy Monday up to Easter Sunday of the Lenten Season.

29.) Peak Season – refers to Holy Week of each year from Holy Monday to Easter Sunday.

30.) Off Season-refers to the period between June to August

### **ARTICLE III**

### **THE MOUNTAINEERING/TREKKING TRAILS**

**SECTION 7.** The Trekking Trails are as follows:

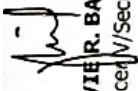
  
JOSE F. MAGAS, RN, JD, MPA  
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**a.) Kapatagan Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Paradise
Emergency Camp 1	Sitio Sukarap
Emergency Camp 2	Baruring Daku
Main Camp	Sitio Godi-Godi
Destination	Mt Apo Peak
EXIT POINT	Sitio Godi-Godi
	Sitio Paradise

**b.) Matti-Mahilak-Napan Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Matti
Emergency Camp	Sitio Isor
Main Campsite	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
EXIT POINT	Sitio Napan

**c.) Matti-Mahilak Back Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Matti
Emergency Camp	Sitio Isor
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
EXIT POINT	Sitio Matti

**d.) Napan-Mahilak-Matti Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Napan
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
Emergency Camp	Sitio Isor
EXIT POINT	Sitio Matti

**e.) Napan-Mahilak- Back Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Napan
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
EXIT POINT	Sitio Napan

**f.) Mahayag-Tambudlot-Kidaran Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Mahayag
Main Camp (For Overnight)	Sitio Palan (IYADA)
Destination	Mt. Tambudlot Peak
EXIT POINT	Sitio Kidaran

**g.) Kidaran-Tambudlot-Mahayag Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Kidaran
Destination	Mt Tambudlot Peak
EXIT POINT	Sitio Mahayag

**h.) Lutangan-Tampurong-Matti Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Lutangan
Destination	Mt. Tampurong Peak
EXIT POINT	Sitio Matti

  
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 City Mayor

  
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**i.) Lutangan-Tampurong-Mahilak-Matti Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Lutangan
Destination	Mt. Tampurong Peak
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
Emergency Camp	Sitio Isor
EXIT POINT	Sitio Matti

**j.) Lutangan-Tampurong-Mahilak-Napan Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Lutangan
Destination	Mt. Tampurong Peak
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
EXIT POINT	Sitio Napan

**k.) Napan-Mahilak-Mahilak-Lutangan Trail**

ENTRY POINT	Sitio Napan
Destination	Mahilak Falls
Main Camp	Sitio Manikan
Destination	Mt. Tampurong Peak
EXIT POINT	Sitio Lutangan

**ARTICLE III  
 THE MOUNTAINEERING/TREKKING TRAIL**

**SECTION 8.** There will be three seasons for the trekking and mountaineering activity in Mt Apo, to wit:

- a.) Peak Season - Holy Week
- b.) Regular Season- rest of the months
- c.) Off Season - period between June to August

**SECTION 9.** There will be two seasons for the trekking and mountaineering activity for Mahilak Falls, Mt. Tambudlot Peak and Mt. Tampurong Peak.

- a.) Peak Season - Holy Week
- b.) Regular Season- other months

Provided, that should there be weather disturbances making the trails and rivers dangerous to cross, they shall be automatically closed.

**SECTION 10. CARRYING CAPACITY.** For purposes of establishing the carrying capacity of the trail, a maximum number of days shall be pegged per activity per batch, as well as the maximum number of persons per batch, to wit:

- a. To Mt. Apo Peak
 

Maximum # of days per Activity/ Batch	= 3 days, 2 nights
Maximum # of persons/day	= 50
- b. To Mahilak Falls/Mt. Tampurong (Sitio Manikan Campsite)
 

Maximum number of days	= overnight
Maximum number of persons/day	= 50
- c. To Mt. Tambudlot (Sitio Palan Campsite)
 

Maximum number of days	= overnight
Maximum number of persons/day	= 50

**ARTICLE IV  
MOUNTAINEERING/TREKKING PERMITS**

**SECTION 11. BOOKING OF TREKKERS.**

- a.) A "No Walk-in Trekkers" policy shall be strictly implemented.
- b.) All Trekkers shall be pre-booked at the City Tourism Office through Accredited Tour Operators.
- c.) LGU Accredited Tour Operators and Accredited Mountaineering guides shall confirm/book to the LGU Tourism Office number of climbers and dates of climb for the issuance of climbing permits upon payment of fees.

**SECTION 12. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS IN THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.** No trekker and/or mountaineer will be allowed to perform any activity in the Kapatagan Trail or in any other area identified and included within the scope and coverage of this Ordinance, who has not obtained a trekking/mountaineering permit. Permits shall be issued after complying with the following requirements:

- a.) Booking Reservation Policies
- b.) Conditions for Rebooking
- c.) Cancellation/ Forfeiture
- d.) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to observe protocols on trekking between LGU Digos and Digos City Mountaineering Guides Association (DCMOGA)

**ARTICLE V  
TREKKING FEES AND OTHER FEES AND SHARING SYSTEM**

**SECTION 13. TREKKING AND OTHER FEES**

- a.) There will be two rates of trekking fees to be collected from trekkers depending on the season; payments made to LGU shall be non-refundable.

**KAPATAGAN TRAIL:**

- 1.) Peak Season Rate – One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) per trekker
- 2.) Regular Season Rate – One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per trekker

**MAHILAK FALLS TRAIL:**

- 1.) Peak Season Rate – Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 250.00) per trekker
- 2.) Regular Season Rate – Three Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 350.00) per trekker

**MT. TAMBUDLOT TRAIL:**

- 1.) Peak Season Rate – Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 250.00) per trekker
- 2.) Regular Season Rate – Three Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 350.00) per trekker

  
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City Mayor

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SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

  
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**MT. TAMPURONG TRAIL:**

- 1.) Peak Season Rate – Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 350.00) per trekker
- 2.) Regular Season Rate – Three Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 350.00) per trekker



b.) Exit fees shall be collected to all trekkers who will exit to different trails. Exit fee charges are as follows:

- 1.) Peak Season Rate – One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) per trekker;
- 2.) Regular Season Rate – One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per trekker;
- 3.) No exit fees shall be charged to trekkers who will exit on the same trail (back trail);
- 4.) The LGU where the trekker had registered shall inform the respective LGU where the trekker shall exit;
- 5.) In case climber decide to exit to another trail only during the trek, **accredited tour operators** shall ensure on the collection of exit fees to concerned LGU.

c.) Trekking fee is inclusive of Trekkers ID, Trekkers Orientation and Certificate of climb.

**KAPATAGAN TRAIL:**

a.) Trekker's ID

- 1.) All trekkers shall be provided with color ID to be issued by the LGU to determine point of entry of trekkers.
- 2.) Design may vary per LGU but dominant color per LGU shall be:

Kidapawan	-	Orange
Makilala	-	Green
Magpet	-	Blue
Digos City	-	Yellow
Sta. Cruz	-	Red
Bansalan	-	White
Davao City	-	N/A

b.) Trekkers Orientation

Trekkers Orientation is mandatory to all trekkers. Respective LGUs shall ensure that trekkers will be given trek orientation before the climb; Orientation shall include but not limited to:

- 1. Duties and Responsibilities;
- 2. Prohibited acts, fines, and penalties;
- 3. Entrance and Exit Fees;
- 4. Guiding and Porterage Policies;
- 5. Solid waste management
- 6. Cultural sensitivities along the trails;

  
**JOSEF F. Ogasaran, Jr., MPA**  
 City Mayor

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 Sp Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

  
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 Admin. Officer / Secretary-Designate



c.) After completion of the climb, a Certificate shall be issued to the trekker.

d.) Trekking fee is exclusive of entrance fees (if any) to other special feature sites along the trails.

e.) Accreditation Fees

- a.) Guide - P100.00 /annum
- b.) Porter - 50.00 /annum

*increase to P500*

f.) Special ID Pass – for tour guides that may exit to other trails, which ID exempts them from the payment of exit fees, they shall pay P500.00 annually for the Special ID Pass.

**SECTION 14. PORTER FEES**

- a.) Porter fees shall be P500.00/day for a maximum of 15 kg weight of baggage;
- b.) Additional P50.00 per kilo shall be charged for baggage in excess of 15 kgs. but only up to a maximum load of 20 kgs. per porter;
- c.) In excess of 20 kgs., trekkers are required to get the services of an additional porter;
- d.) Porter fees are exclusive of food of the porters;
- e.) Contract of Porter Services shall be signed by the porter and trekker, which form shall be provided by the respective LGUs.

*Trekkers Rates*  
*Make Form*

**SECTION 15. TOUR GUIDE FEES:**

- a.) Tour Guide Fee shall be P1,000.00 per day, exclusive of food;
- b.) One tour guide per maximum of 5 tourists shall be strictly implemented;
- c.) No trekker shall be allowed to climb MANP without a tour guide.

**SECTION 16. CHILDREN TREKKERS:**

- a.) Children shall pay entrance and exit fees accordingly;
- b.) No child, 15 years and below shall be allowed to climb without his/her parent/guardian;
- c.) Parent/Guardian shall sign waiver of liability in case something happened to their child during the climb;
- d.) Parent/Guardian shall secure the DSWD certification of liability in case something happened to their child during the climb;
- e.) LGU shall identify trails that will allow children to climb with their parents.

**SECTION 17. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MANP:**

- a.) Scientific research conducted in MANP shall get approval from PAMB;
- b.) Researchers shall coordinate with the specific LGU where the study is to be specifically conducted;
- c.) Researchers are required to pay applicable trekking fees;
- d.) Researchers should hire LGU accredited porters and guides and pay necessary fees.

**SECTION 18. OTHER CAUSE-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES:**

- a.) Military community relation activities, religious activities, non-government and government-led activities shall get approval from PAMB or PASu;

*[Signature]*  
JOSEF F. CAGAS, RN, JD, MPA  
City Mayor

ATTY. MARC DOMINIC R. FERNANDEZ  
SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

*[Signature]*  
ELVIE R. BARRIL, MPA  
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- b.) All cause-oriented trekkers are required to pay applicable trekking fees;
- c.) Organizations shall coordinate with the specific LGU concerned. No cause-oriented activities shall be conducted during the peak season.

**SECTION 19. EXEMPTION FROM PERMIT FEE.** The following persons and/or activities shall be exempt from the payment of permit fees, to wit:

- a.) Accredited guides and porters of Digos City;
- b.) Accredited Rescue Teams of Digos City; and
- c.) Activities pertaining to general management, administration, monitoring, evaluation and biodiversity conservation related efforts initiated or co-sponsored by the PAMB-DENR and LGU-Digos.

**SECTION 20. SHARING SYSTEM OF TREKKERS FEES**

- a.) Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) and tribal communities shall have a mandatory share of 25% and 15%, respectively, on all Trekking fees collected.
- b.) The remaining 60% share of the LGU on the income derived from the collection of fees for mountaineering/trekking activities using Kapatagan Trail shall be shared equally by the City Government of Digos and Barangay Government of Kapatagan, subject to the provisions of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two entities.

**ARTICLE VI  
PROHIBITED ACTS**

**SECTION 21. PROHIBITED ACTS.** Except as may be allowed by the nature of their categories and pursuant to the rules and regulations governing the same, the following acts are prohibited within Digos City Protected Areas:

1. Hunting, destroying, disturbing, or mere possession of any flora and fauna or products derived therefrom without permit;
2. Dumping of any waste products detrimental to the protected area, or to the plants and animals or inhabitants therein;
3. Use of any motorized equipment without a permit;
4. Mutilating, defacing or destroying objects of natural beauty, or objects of interest to cultural communities (of service value);
5. Damaging and leaving roads and trails in damaged condition;
6. Squatting, mineral locating, or otherwise occupying any land;
7. Constructing or maintaining any kind of structure, fence or enclosures, conducting any business enterprise without a permit;
8. Leaving in exposed or unsanitary conditions refuse or debris, or depositing in ground or in bodies of water;
9. Altering, removing, or destroying or defacing boundary marks or signs;
10. Failure to secure Permit;
11. Porter/Guide without accreditation;
12. Littering/Vandalism/Illegal cutting is strictly prohibited;
13. Collecting of remnants of previous forest fires, i.e., fallen trunks of old trees, is prohibited, as these form part of the historical manifestations of the mountain;
14. Bringing of knives/bolos with blade that is more than three (3) inches. Knives that have more than three (3) inches blade shall be temporarily confiscated and shall be returned to its owner after the trek. Trekkers who will exit to another trail shall be responsible in getting the knife/bolo from the entrance trek;

  
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- 15. Indecent practices (e.g. nudity) is strictly prohibited during the trek;
- 16. Swimming in Lake Venado;
- 17. Direct use of soap, detergents, shampoo and other harmful chemicals in water source area;
- 18. Creating trouble and loud noise.

**SECTION 22. FIRE PREVENTION**

- a.) Cooking shall only be done using portable burners. Use of firewood is strictly prohibited;
- b.) Camp fires are strictly prohibited in all trails and camp sites of Mt. Apo;
- c.) No fireworks allowed;
- d.) Smoking is strictly prohibited.

**SECTION 23. BLACKLISTING OF CLIMBERS, PORTERS AND GUIDES**

Violation of any of the Prohibited Acts shall be ground for climbers, porters and guides to being blacklisted, and shall be prohibited from ever again climbing Mt. Apo Natural Park.

Climbers shall be given first and final warning before blacklisting. Every after peak season, all the LGUs shall meet and consolidate their list of apprehended violators for summing up and assessment of the identities of violators. A violation in one specific trail is Count # 1 compounded for all trails within MANP.

**ARTICLE VII  
PORTERS/GUIDES**

**SECTION 24.** All Mountaineers/Trekkers must avail of the services of a porter and guide.

**SECTION 25. QUALIFICATION OF PORTERS:**

- a.) All porters should be accredited by the Local LGU. Porters should be residents of Digos City;
- b.) At least 18-55 years old;
- c.) Physically and mentally fit;
- d.) With good moral character and without any criminal case;
- e.) Porters must have undergone Basic Porter Guide Training (Basic Mountaineering Course, Roping Techniques, Basic Life Support, and Basic Jungle Survival) and pass the practical exam;
- f.) Porters should be familiar with the Mt. Apo water resources, camp sites, solid waste management policies along the trek;
- g.) Porters should know how to communicate with the trekkers.

**SECTION 26. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PORTERS.** The Porters shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.) Porters must render satisfactory and pertinent services to their clients, i.e., assist climbers in carrying their load with a maximum weight of 20 kgs;
- b.) Assist climbers in cooking, tent-pitching, and tent-guarding;
- c.) Porters must observe courtesy to both clients and nature, and ensure that all garbage generated during the trek shall be brought down;
- d.) Report to the LGU any accidents or emergency that may occur during the trek;
- e.) Ensure that Trekking Rules are followed by the trekker.

**SECTION 27. QUALIFICATION OF TOUR GUIDES:**

- a.) At least 18 years old;
- b.) Physically and mentally fit;

*Must have undergone  
BMS, Roping technique, & LP,  
WSPN, Accredited by DOS,  
Pass practical exam.  
Must at least 5 climbs to Mt  
to be a guide*

**JOSEPH LAGAS, RN, JD, MPA**  
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Admin. Officer v/Secretary-Designate

- c.) Must be at least a High School Graduate;
- d.) Can communicate in English or Tagalog (Filipino);
- e.) Tour guides must have undergone Mountain Guide Training;
- f.) Tour guides are trail specific but not limited to guides for other trails as long as he/she complies with the LGU requirements of the other trails;
- g.) Tour guides can exit to other trails as long as he/she has attended the Trail Specific Training for tour guides conducted by the MANP Eco-Tourism Committee.

**SECTION 28. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TOUR GUIDES.** Tour guides shall have the following responsibilities:

- a.) Tour Guides should ensure that mountaineers/trekkers are guided into established trails;
- b.) Provide trekkers basic information on MANP, especially on biodiversity and forest situation;
- c.) Shall ensure payment of exit fees of trekkers who will exit on different trails;
- d.) Ensure proper timing of climbers to avoid overcrowding at the campsite and illegal camping along the trail;
- e.) Guides must observe courtesy to both clients and nature, and ensure that Trekking Rules are followed by the trekker;
- f.) Report to LGU any accidents or emergency that may occur during the trek.

*conduct orientation, safety and security of clients*  
*First Aid*

**SECTION 29. PRIVILEGES OF PORTER/GUIDES.** A Porter/Guide has the following privileges:

- a.) Beneficiary of related capability building program/projects;
- b.) Exemptions from the payment of permit fees while performing portorage and/or guiding services.

**ARTICLE VIII  
 ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**SECTION 30. MANP MOUNTAINEERING AND TREKKING FUND.** There is hereby established a trust fund for purposes of financial projects within the barangays in MANP-Digos to be known as MANP Mountaineering and Trekking Fund. All income derived from LGU share of the fees collected, e.g. permit fees, trekking fees, and the like; fines; rentals of facilities/equipment shall accrue to the fund.

Collections and remittances of fees, fines, and all monies from the fund sources herein named shall be the task of the City Treasurer's Office which will ensure that such amounts collected are deposited in the said Fund: Provided, that disbursements therefrom shall be for the management and maintenance of identified campsites and trails, development of alternative tourism/mountaineering destinations in the barangays within MANP-Digos, and eco-tourism projects.

The MANP Mountaineering and Trekking Fund may be augmented by grants/subsidies, inter special fund transfer, donations, loans and endowments from various sources, domestic and foreign.

**SECTION 31. MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.** The general management and administration of activities in MANP-Digos Kapatagan Trail shall be lodged in the City Investment Promotion Office and City Tourism Office.

*[Signature]*  
 JOSEF F. CAGAS, RN, JD, MPA  
 City Mayor

ATTY. MARC DOMINIC R. FERNANDEZ  
 SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

*[Signature]*  
 ELVIE R. BARRIL, MPA  
 Admin. Officer/Secretary-Designate

**SECTION 32. CAMPSITE MANAGEMENT**

- a.) All LGUs of MANP should establish campsites along the trail to serve as rest area for trekkers/mountaineers;
- b.) Camp management shall be the responsibility of each specific LGU;
- c.) Camping at the summit shall be strictly for climbers from Sta. Cruz, Digos City, Bansalan, and Makifala trails which have no Lake Venado principal access, provided that the waste management will be the responsibility of the LGUs concerned;
- d.) LGUs may come up with alternative campsites near the summit.

**SECTION 33. TRAIL MANAGEMENT**

- a.) Trail Management shall be the responsibility of each specific LGU;
- b.) Trail Management shall include management and/or replacement of Signage;
- c.) Coordination meeting among LGUs shall be conducted every after the peak season (Holy Week) to assess status of trails and campsites;
- d.) Emergency trail rehabilitation or trail closure shall be the responsibility of the LGU;
- e.) All trails shall be closed during dry season and absence of rain for at least 2 months;
- f.) Forest guards shall be deployed by the respective LGUs on the trails, to enforce closure during dry months;
- g.) Other than at their specific trails, each LGU shall be assigned a defined sector each at the Peak and Lake Venado where they are authorized to issue citation tickets and collect penalties.

*Supplies and Budget*

**SECTION 34. SIGNAGES**

- a.) Signages should be stable and immovable and should be strategically located along the trail;
- b.) Materials to be used for signages are Plain GI Sheet and Steel Frame;
- c.) Size of signage shall be 3 x 4 feet;
- d.) Basic information on the signage are the following: Message, LGU Logo, DENR Logo, CADT No. for Ancestral Domain area.

**SECTION 35. CLEAN-UP DRIVE**

- a.) Regular clean-up drive shall be conducted by each LGU at least twice a year;
- b.) LGU shall allocate funds for clean-up drive activities.

**SECTION 36. COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

- a.) All LGUs of the MANP shall come up with an Inter LGU communication system to ensure safety of entry and exit of climbers;
- b.) LGUs shall invest on establishing a repeater-based common radio communication network during peak season (exclusive frequency) in close coordination with LGU DRRM team.

**SECTION 37. SEARCH AND RESCUE**

- a.) Porters or tour guides shall report to the LGU concerned accidents or other emergency cases that shall occur during the trek;
- b.) If accidents happen along the trail, respective LGU shall respond to the emergency;
- c.) Search and rescue protocols within the Mt. Apo trails shall be included in the Municipality/City Ordinances on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

*[Signature]*  
 JOSEF P. CANGAS, RN, JD, MPA  
 City Mayor

*[Signature]*  
 ATTY. MARC DOMINIC R. FERNANDEZ  
 SP Member/Temp. Presiding Officer

*[Signature]*  
 ELVIE R. BARRIL, MPA  
 Admin. Officer / Secretary-Designate

**ARTICLE IX  
PENALTIES AND FINES**

**SECTION 38. PENALTIES AND FINES.** An administrative fine of Php 2,000.00 shall be imposed for every violation committed on the Prohibited Acts as specified under Section 21 hereof.

Offenders shall be issued a ticket by the LGU on which trail or specific assigned sector the violator was apprehended.

A habitual offender, in addition to being fined, will be blacklisted from trekking/mountaineering activities in MANP-Digos City or delisted from the Roster of Accredited Porters/Guides.

Collection of fine shall be Official Receipt-based and when not feasible on-site for lack of funds, violators shall be sent official demand letter at the risk of blacklisting and court litigation for non-compliance.

Further, the penalty provided for in the NIPAS Law shall be imposed to whoever violates the law and provided further that PAMB is empowered to exercise its power and functions over the natural park.

**ARTICLE X  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**


**SECTION 39. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or unlawful, the other parts or provision hereof which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 40. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 41. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect after the required posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Digos and publication in a newspaper of local circulation pursuant to RA 7160, whichever comes later.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

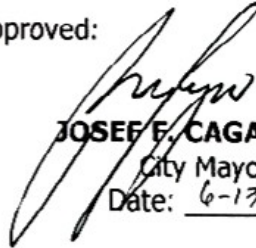
Certified true and correct:

  
**ELVIE R. BARRIL, MPA**  
Admin. Officer V/Secretary-Designate

Attested:

  
**ATTY. MARC DOMINIC R. FERNANDEZ**  
SP Member/Temporary Presiding Officer

Approved:

  
**JOSE F. CAGAS, RN, JD**  
City Mayor  
Date: 6-13-23