



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary**
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Director
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Executive Director
National Water Resources Board

The Chairperson
DENR National Gender and Development Focal Point System

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON
DISASTER RESILIENCE OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 10 October 2022

In reference to the letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Committee Disaster Resilience of the House of Representatives, received by our Office on 10 October 2022 through Electronic mail, we are **requesting for your comments and recommendations** on the following bills:

1. **House Bills Numbered 2773, 2940, 3047, 3498, 3466, 3774, 3778, 4145, 4381, 5152, 5185, and 5211**, entitled, "An Act Establishing Evacuation Centers in Every City and Municipality, and Appropriating Funds Therefor", authored by Reps. Alfred C. Delos Santos, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Paolo Z. Duterte and Eric Go Yap, Patrick Michael D. Vargas, Lianda B. Bolilia, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Richard I. Gomez, DPA, Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Michael L. Romero, PhD, France L. Castro, Arlene D. Brosas, and Raoul Danniell A. Manuel, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., and Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, respectively;

- House Bill No. 5158, entitled, "An Act Establishing Green Evacuation Centers in Every City and Municipality and Appropriating Funds Therefor", authored by Rep. Teodoro Haresco, Jr.;

We would greatly appreciate receiving your official position paper on or before 27 October 2022 to enable the Committee Secretariat to organize and distribute the materials to our Members for their review.

Should you have any question or need clarification, kindly contact the Committee Secretariat at telephone number +63 2 8931-5001 local 8131, or at cellular phone numbers +63 998 970-6414 for Ms. Jennifer Joan C. Estella, Committee Secretary, or +63 917 862-6326 for Ms. Consuelo T. Alcid. You may also send us an email at committee.disasterresilience@house.gov.ph.

We look forward to a productive and successful collaboration with you and your agency.


Thank you.

Very truly yours,

REP. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO

Chairperson

For the Chairperson:


JENNIFER JOAN C. ESTELLA
Committee Secretary

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2773



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a country especially vulnerable to natural disasters. Being located both within the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Typhoon Belt, the country experiences multiple heavy rainfall, volcanic activity, and earthquakes within a year, which caused the displacement of 700,038 individuals in the year 2021 alone.¹ Add to this the 108,463 individuals displaced due to armed conflict situations² and it becomes clear that the country needs to prepare more than just covered courts and multi-purpose halls for disaster situations. As people are forced to flee from their established homes, it devolves upon the State to ensure that they have a safe and sanitary dwelling place in the meantime; somewhere to stay while they go through the process of rebuilding.

The present bill seeks to strengthen the country's capacity to assist its disaster-stricken citizens by mandating the construction of permanent evacuation centers in every city and municipality in the country. In this way, every locality will be in a position to provide adequate aid to their population in situations that require mass evacuation. Furthermore, the present measure would also allow these localities to offer assistance to neighboring areas, should the latter lack the space to house all of their evacuees.

Thus, it is for the foregoing reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

¹ Philippines among nations with most disaster-related internal displacements in 2021 (accessed at: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/832238/philippines-among-nations-with-most-disaster-related-internal-displacements-in-2021-report/story/ng-nations-with-most-disaster-related-internal-displacements-in-2021-report> | GMA News Online (gmanetwork.com))

² *Id.*

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2773

Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Accessible Evacuation Centers Act of 2022.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully equipped and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climactic events, in recognition of the vulnerabilities of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the environment.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Evacuation Centers.* – There shall be established an evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought, and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

SECTION 4. *Requirements.* – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

- a) **Location Designation** – Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

The location shall be determined based on the following criteria

1. It must be centrally located in the community;
2. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structure where hazardous materials are used and store, or high-voltage power line;
3. It must be near a health facility;
4. It must be located on a geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high.

- b) **Structural and Building Capacity** – The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act. No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines” or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The evacuation center must meet at least the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

- c) **Amenities and Accessibility.** – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

SECTION 5. *Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center in its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such: *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involved the use of collapsible amenities and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs. *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of such activities.

The mandatory audit of infrastructure used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hard or disaster.

SECTION 6. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.* – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the country that (a) are identified as disaster prone, (b) are financially incapable to establish their own evacuation centers, and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected populations based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.

SECTION 7. *Coordination Among Agencies.* – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount of money necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation, and management of the facility.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

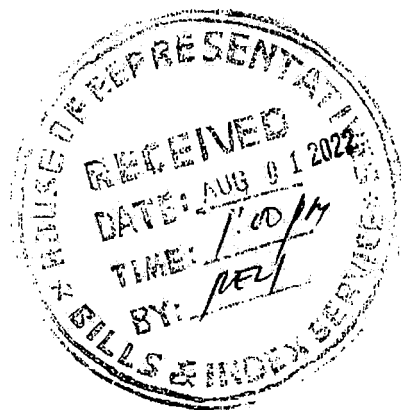
SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 2826

Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE GYM IN ALL
MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES TO SERVE AS EVACUATION CENTER DURING
TIMES OF CALAMITY OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

Explanatory Note

Schools have traditionally been utilized as default evacuation centers in times of calamities, disasters, conflicts, and emergencies. Schools however, are not well equipped to accommodate evacuees since these lack the necessary facilities for displaced families.

The use of schools as evacuation centers for displaced families also gives rise to another group of displaced individuals: the students. The education of children is severely affected when families cannot immediately vacate school premises because their houses have not yet been repaired or reconstructed. This relegates students to makeshift classrooms that may not be conducive to learning. Moreover, its cost can take away from the meager budget what could be better utilized for more permanent solutions to problems brought about by disasters.

The construction of multipurpose gyms in the country's 1,488 municipalities and 146 cities¹ nationwide will be a permanent recourse for evacuation in times of calamities and natural or man-made disasters. The gym must be able to withstand typhoons, earthquakes and other disasters. It must be designed to have space that can be used flexibly for social activities, sporting events, and as sleeping quarters

¹ As of 29 April 2022. <https://psa.gov.ph/classification/prgr/>

during the evacuation. The multipurpose gym must be well-ventilated, able to accommodate large groups of people, and must have ample bathing and sanitation facilities. When not in use as a refuge center, the multipurpose gym, which should be in a location where people and emergency rescue personnel can easily access, can be a storehouse for disaster rescue equipment and emergency supplies.

With the reality of stronger typhoons brought about by climate change and the geographical location of the country making it the eighth most disaster-prone country², seeking temporary solutions to the displacement of families by using schools as evacuation centers must be stopped. There should be no tradeoff between protecting lives and the education of students. A better and more permanent facility must be made available to people in times of emergencies.

In the light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO

² WorldRiskReport 2021 of The Bundes-Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of Ruhr-University Bochum. <https://weltrisikobericht.de/weltrisikobericht-2021-0/>

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2826

Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE GYM IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES TO SERVE AS EVACUATION CENTER DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Multipurpose Gym in
2 all Municipalities and Cities Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to protect the
4 people's right to life and property, and to promote their general welfare. Towards this
5 end, the State, in cognizance of the vulnerability of the Philippines to calamities and
6 disasters, shall provide for the construction of a multipurpose gym in every
7 municipality and city to serve primarily as refuge for displaced families in times of
8 calamities and disasters.

9 Sec. 3. *Construction of a Multipurpose Gym.* - The Department of Public
10 Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of a multipurpose gym
11 in every municipality and city throughout the country which shall serve as a civic center
12 and as an evacuation center for residents during calamities and disasters: *Provided,*
13 *That any such construction is based on a program prepared by DPWH in coordination*
14 *with a representative of the municipality and city concerned. Provided, further,* *That*
15 *the municipal or city mayor shall be furnished with the pertinent documents, data and*
16 *information before any construction shall commence: Provided, finally,* *That Local*

1 Government Units (LGUs) may include in their respective local infrastructure program
2 the construction of a multipurpose gym.

3 *Sec. 4. Construction Priority.* – The DPWH shall give construction priority to
4 third to sixth class municipalities, especially those located in disaster-prone areas. The
5 DPWH shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
6 Council and the LGUs concerned to determine which disaster-prone areas to prioritize
7 in the construction of the facility.

8 Priority shall also be given to municipalities whose residents will volunteer labor
9 services for the construction thereof and for this purpose, the DPWH shall issue the
10 necessary guidelines.

11 *Sec. 5. Multipurpose Gym Requirements.* – The following shall be the minimum
12 requirements for every Multipurpose Gym that will be established under this Act:

13 a. Location – Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by
14 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close coordination
15 with the LGUs concerned.

16 The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- 17 1. It must be centrally located in the community;
- 18 2. It must be at a safe distance from large trees, structures where
19 hazardous materials are used and stored, or high-voltage power lines;
- 20 3. It must be near a health facility;
- 21 4. It must be located on a geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of
22 landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands; and
- 23 5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent
24 groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence
25 of human-induced disasters are very high.

26 b. Structural and Building Capacity – The multipurpose gyms shall be
27 constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons and wind speeds of at least
28 300 kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The
29 structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance
30 with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National

1 Building Code of the Philippines" or shall be at par with the standards set by the
2 International Building Code.

3 The DPWH shall be in charge of the construction of multipurpose gyms,
4 including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are
5 based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are
6 compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also
7 ensure that the construction of such multipurpose gyms is in accordance with the
8 abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

9 The specifications of the multipurpose gyms shall be periodically reviewed and,
10 if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

11 The multipurpose gym must at least meet the following parameters:

- 12 1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above
13 the reach of high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- 14 2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average
15 flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
- 16 3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall
17 be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

18 c. Amenities and Accessibility – The multipurpose gym must be well-ventilated
19 and shall have the capacity to accommodate large numbers of evacuees. The
20 multipurpose gyms shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 21 1. Floor area devoid of permanent fixtures to be used flexibly for
22 assemblies, sports events, and as sleeping quarters for evacuees;
- 23 2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females,
24 with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
- 25 3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
- 26 4. Emergency exit doors;
- 27 5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
- 28 6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 29 7. Isolated area that can be used as a clinic or isolation zone for
30 potentially infectious persons;
- 31 8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and

1 9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

2 *Sec. 6. Operation and Management of the Multipurpose Gym.* – The LGUs
3 concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and
4 management of multipurpose gyms established under this Act. They are also hereby
5 authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

6 The local *sanggunian* shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use
7 and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall
8 prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such:
9 *Provided,* That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or
10 purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities and those that shall not in any
11 way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof
12 when a disaster occurs: *Provided further,* That the LGU shall impose such penalties as
13 may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the
14 multipurpose gyms suffer any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of
15 such activities.

16 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be
17 conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after
18 the occurrence of a hazard or disaster.

19 *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate
20 implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current
21 appropriations of the DPWH. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary to carry out
22 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 The LGUs are authorized to utilize local funds as may be provided in their
24 respective appropriation ordinances for the implementation of this Act.

25 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the
26 effectivity of this Act, the DPWH shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the
27 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and
28 regulations issued pursuant to this Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its
29 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

1 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause* – In the event that any provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be
3 affected by such declaration.

4 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or
5 portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
6 accordingly.

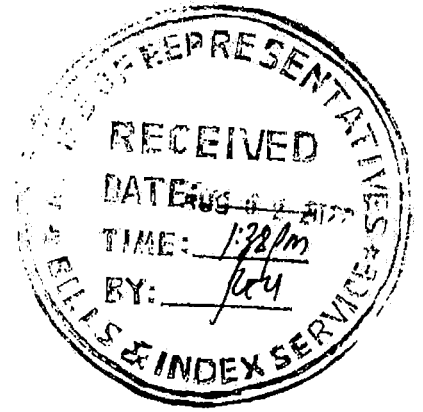
7 Sec. 11. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official*
9 *Gazette*.

 Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2995



Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is considered as one of the nation's most "at risk" of being struck by disasters due to its geographic location.¹ Being along the Typhoon Belt, An average of 20 typhoons pass through the Philippines every year. Out of the 20, five are destructive.² Also, being situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is vulnerable to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Due to its geographic features and environment, it is also highly susceptible to tsunami, sea level rise, storm surges, landslides, and flash floods.³

Since the Philippines frequently experiences various natural disasters and calamities, there is a need to strengthen and enhance the country's readiness and response mechanisms. One of such mechanisms is the provision of temporary shelters or evacuation centers in order to deal with the displaced population affected by the natural disaster or calamity. At times of calamities, some families and individuals suffer the destruction of their homes. Some have to abandon or evacuate their homes for safety. Thus, temporary shelters must be readily available to accommodate mass displacement of families and individuals affected by natural disasters or calamities.

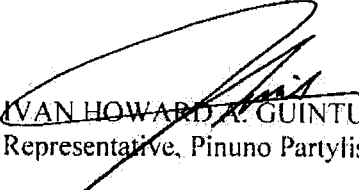
¹ Disaster-Induced Internal Displacement In The Philippines. Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Retrieved July 8, 2022, from <https://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/disaster-induced-internal-displacement-in-the-philippines>

² Tropical Cyclone Information. PAGASA. Retrieved July 8, 2022, from <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climate/tropical-cyclone-information>

³ Information on Disaster Risk Reduction of the Member Countries: The Philippines. Asian Disaster Reduction Center. Retrieved July 8, 2022, from <https://www.adrc.asia/nationinformation.php?NationCode=608&Lang=en&NationNum=14>

This bill seeks to provide for the implementation of an effective and efficient system for the designation of community shelters which shall serve as evacuation centers in times of natural disasters, calamities and other emergencies.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IVAN HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, Pinuno Partylist

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2995

Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY SHELTERS IN TIMES
OF NATURAL DISASTERS, CALAMITIES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Community Shelter Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as the policy of the government to strengthen and enhance the country’s readiness and response mechanisms for disasters and protect the welfare of displaced populations. Pursuant to this, the government shall implement an effective and efficient system for the designation of community shelters which shall serve as *evacuation centers in times of natural disasters, calamities and other emergencies.*

SEC. 3. *Designation of Community Shelters.* – In all cities and municipalities, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC), in coordination with the Office of the City/Municipal Engineer or the Office of the Building Official, is hereby mandated to designate and establish as community shelters all suitable government buildings and spaces, *including but not limited to, gymnasiums, convention centers, multi-purpose halls, covered courts, government warehouses, and other similar spacious structures.*

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other relevant government agencies, shall formulate the guidelines on what will be considered as buildings and structures suitable for *designation as community shelters.*

SEC. 4. *Use of Classrooms and School Buildings as Community Shelters.* -- The designation of classrooms and school buildings shall only be done in the last resort, when it is conclusively determined by the LDRRMC that no other buildings or structures qualify as community shelters or that there is a lack thereof. If so designated, the local government units shall adopt measures to ensure that its utilization as community shelters shall not disrupt, or shall cause the least disruption, to the conduct of classes. Designation of classrooms and school buildings as community shelters shall be done in coordination with the Department of Education Schools Division exercising jurisdiction over the affected schools. Pursuant to this, spaces and structures in school not regularly or constantly used for the conduct of classes, such as school gyms, auditoriums, audio-visual rooms, multi-purpose halls, open spaces in libraries, laboratories and faculty rooms, etc., shall be prioritized for designation and utilization as community shelters.

SEC. 5. *List of Community Shelters.* -- The LDRRMC shall draw up a complete list of designated community shelters within the locality under its jurisdiction. Such list shall be submitted to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Master lists in the provincial and national level shall then be drawn up. The list for every city or municipality shall be made available to all barangays, neighborhood or homeowners associations, building/condominium administrators, and other people's organizations.

SEC. 6. *Information Dissemination.* -- The dissemination of information through multiple communication channels concerning community shelters shall be the primary responsibility of the city or municipal government where the calamity or emergency occurs. In case of province-wide calamities or emergencies or those involving two or more cities or municipalities within a province, information dissemination shall be the responsibility of both the cities and/or municipalities concerned and the provincial government.

When the above local governments are rendered incapacitated to adequately fulfill this function, the national government shall intervene and undertake to perform the same.

Information dissemination shall cover the entire period before, during and after the calamity or emergency.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* -- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other relevant government agencies shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* -- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

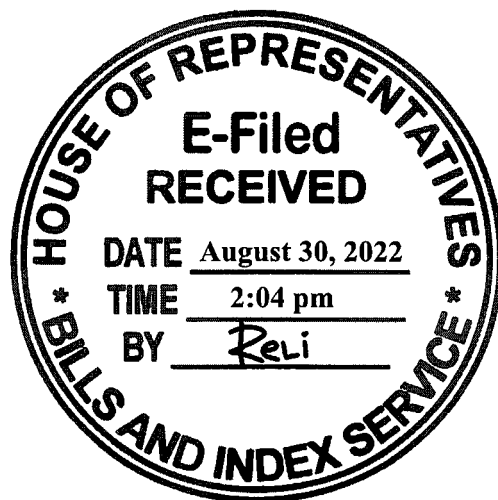
SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4233



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

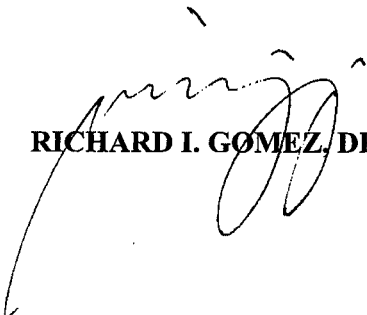
The Province of Leyte has experienced numerous natural disasters that affected thousands of people. On November 5, 1991, the second deadliest typhoon in the Philippines, Typhoon “Uring” (Thelma), triggered flash floods in the province, resulting in 4,000 deaths, 3,000 injured, and 2,500 reported missing. In recent history, one of the most destructive typhoons in the country, Super Typhoon “Yolanda” (Haiyan), ravaged Eastern Visayas, including the Province of Leyte, and claimed at least 6,201 lives. In 2021, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the province was once again challenged as Typhoons “Odette” and “Agaton” which affected 245,375 families or 984,922 individuals in the southern part of Leyte Island.

In these disasters and calamities, it is often the people who are left with the burden of rebuilding their lives. Aside from the direct effects of the disasters, there are underlying consequences that further exacerbate the situations of the people. During disasters when people are just trying to survive, Filipinos are denied their basic rights to a habitable living space with privacy and dignity, whenever they need to evacuate. And because schools and learning centers are converted as makeshift emergency shelters, by default, our children’s right to education is also jeopardized in the process.

Hence, there is a compelling need to address the quality and availability of evacuation centers, most especially in the Fourth District of Leyte. As a “center,” the proposed Life Centers under this measure shall not only provide temporary shelter to those affected by disasters and calamities, but also provide the basic needs of the displaced families, who may not be able to return to their homes for an extended period of time. This response shall assist and empower the residents of the Fourth District of Leyte in the process of restoring their lives back into full normalcy. Once established, these Life Centers could also alternatively serve as community centers to function as

multipurpose centers. These Life Centers shall become a symbol of hope to the people of the Fourth District of Leyte and the entire province.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4233

Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIFE CENTERS SERVING AS DISASTER EMERGENCY AND DISPLACEMENT CENTERS IN EACH OF THE CITY OF ORMOC AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PALOMPON, ALBUERA, MERIDA, ISABEL, KANANGA, AND MATAG-OB IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Fourth District of Leyte Disaster Emergency and Displacement Centers Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Establishment of the Fourth District of Leyte Integrated Disaster Emergency and Displacement Center.* - There shall be established a set of centers that shall be known as the “Fourth District of Leyte Integrated Disaster Emergency and Displacement Centers,” hereinafter referred to as “Life Centers.” There shall be one (1) Life Center constructed in each of the City of Ormoc and the Municipalities of Palompon, Albueria, Merida, Isabel, Kananga, and Matag-ob in the Province of Leyte.

SEC. 3. *Objectives, Functions and Features.* -- The Life Centers shall serve as evacuation centers during disaster, calamities or emergencies, providing temporary shelter and other basic needs to persons evacuated and/or displaced by calamities, whether natural or man-made. The Life Centers must have (but not limited to) the following features and characteristics:

- A) Decent living quarters for evacuated and/or displaced families;

- B) Availability of clean toilets and bathrooms, with a ratio of one (1) facility for every twenty (20) evacuees;
- C) Food preparation area;
- D) Trauma and other medical and rehabilitation services to victims of calamities;
- E) Other necessary amenities required for displaced families that are unable to immediately return to their homes after disasters; and
- F) The Life Center building must be disaster resilient and compliant with the National Building Code of the Philippines.

SEC 4. *Construction of Life Centers.* — The construction of Life Centers shall be undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) under the supervision of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) of the Department of National Defense (DND). Once established, the local government unit (LGU) concerned shall undertake the operation and maintenance of the Life Centers.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the construction and establishment of the Life Centers shall initially be appropriated from the budget of the DPWH and shall thereafter be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, as part of the budget of the DPWH. The amount necessary for the maintenance and operation of Life Centers shall be appropriated from the budgets of concerned LGUs.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* — Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

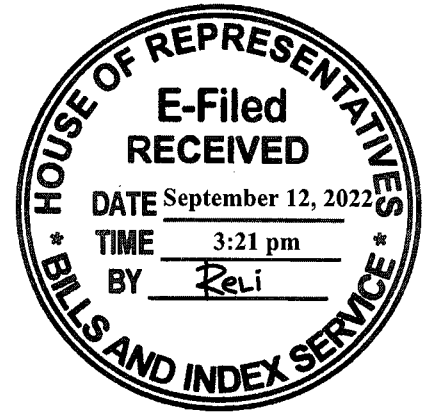
SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4685



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MANDATORY EVACUATION AND QUARANTINE CENTERS IN ALL CITIES
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has always been a hotbed for typhoons, earthquakes, and other natural and man-made disasters geographic position in Southeast Asia. Just for the year 2020, even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, the country has been devastated by the eruption of the Taal Volcano early this year which has led to 39 deaths¹, economic loss of around Php 6.7 billion in agriculture, services, and industrial sector², and thousands of people being displaced from their homes.

Whilst the long-term goal is to reduce the country's vulnerability to disasters by investing in disaster risk reduction, ecosystem management, land-use planning, supply change management, and the like, there remains a need to cope with the problem of internal displacement due to calamities. With several disasters hitting the county every year, local government units need to strategically plan and dedicate temporary shelter facilities compliant with basic safety and security guidelines for families affected by calamities. Corresponding support programs must also be provided to these affected families for them to cope and recover from these unfortunate events.

This proposed measure seeks to establish mandatory evacuation and quarantine centers in every city, province, and municipality throughout the country which shall provide shelter, basic needs, and assistance to all evacuees. This bill also sets minimum requirements for the establishment of these evacuation centers to ensure the safety and well-being of the evacuees. It will also be a structure ready in the event of a possible pandemic in which persons will need to be quarantined.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2020/02/01/39-deaths-recorded-during-taal-volcanos-eruption/>

² <https://business.inquirer.net/289357/taal-volcano-seen-to-cost-calabarzon-economy-p6-7b-but-economic-impact-on-rest-of-ph-minimal-says-bsp>

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4685

Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MANDATORY EVACUATION AND QUARANTINE CENTERS IN ALL CITIES
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Sec. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Evacuation and Quarantine Center Act".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people's right to life and property that is rooted and embedded in our Constitution, and to promote their general welfare. It is for this reason that the establishment of an evacuation center shall be undertaken in all cities, provinces, and municipalities to address the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate change and other human-made disasters. This is also to strengthen the country's institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities to adhere to and adopt the universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

Sec. 3. Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be an established evacuation center in every city, province, and municipality throughout the country which shall provide basic needs and assistance to all evacuees, and shall serve as their temporary shelter that will guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all who have become victims of natural calamities or any other hazards/emergency events such as typhoons, floods, fire, storm surges, weather disturbances and the outbreak of illnesses/diseases that may cause imminent danger to their life and property.

Sec. 4 Evacuation Center Requirements. – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

Location/Designation – each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- a. It must be centrally located in the community;
- b. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous materials are used and/or stored, or high-voltage power lines;
- c. It must be near a health facility;
- d. It must be located on geotechnical stable land to avoid the risk of landslides and/or exposure to the potential landslide of adjacent lands;
- e. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced disasters is very high.

Structural/Building Capacity– The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred (300) kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. Evacuation centers should be calamity-resilient, be built with sturdy materials, and be built by the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines" and should be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers and formulating the building specifications therefore based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH.

The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is by the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed. The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three years.

The structural capacity should at least meet the following parameters:

- a. The structure must be elevated in such a manner that it will withstand likely impact from a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- b. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
- c. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and designed by earthquake load standards.

Amenities and Accessibility of the Evacuation Center – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The centers shall have the following minimum amenities:

- a. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- b. Separate Shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females with a facility-to-user ratio of 1:10 persons;
- c. Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
- d. Provisions for emergency/exit doors;
- e. Food preparation areas that are provided with adequate ventilation;
- f. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- g. Health care areas which shall include isolation and/or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
- h. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- i. Other facilities prescribed in DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepED Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 Series of 2013, entitled "Guidelines on Evacuation Center and Management."

Sec. 5. Operations and Management of the Evacuation Center. – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on the proper use and maintenance of the evacuation centers.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by the Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer and/or the building official at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster event.

Sec. 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), or its successor, shall be the primary lead agency that shall oversee the implementation of this act.

Sec. 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary for the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be included in the list of programs as part of the annual budget in the General Appropriations Act.

The appropriations necessary for the operation and management of the evacuation centers shall be charged against the funds of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council (LDRRMC) or its successor.

Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety days (90) after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Local Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the DPWH, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

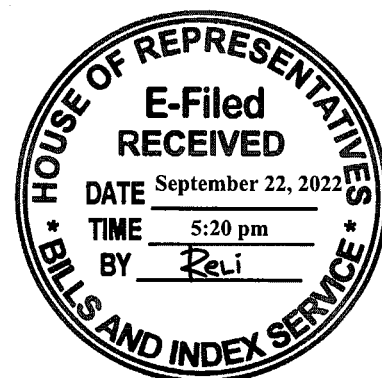
Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national

Approved,

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



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5109**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the construction of a disaster-resilient multi-purpose building in a strategic area in every city and municipality in the country.


The Philippines is situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire. While our geographical location brings us abundant resources such as diverse flora and fauna, and beautiful beaches, it is a double-edged sword. It likewise makes us susceptible to natural hazards, unforeseen disasters, such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other natural calamities.

The occurrence of various natural calamities in the country has deeply affected the lives of the Filipino, and many of those who are affected are underprivileged individuals who have limited access to safer spaces.

The current practice in our country is to use public school buildings as evacuation centers in times of disaster. This practice is not only insufficient to cater to the needs of the people, but also disruptive. This practice causes disturbance in the schedule and education of our school children. Most of these school establishments are not built to withstand strong typhoons, and high-magnitude earthquakes. The continuous use of school buildings may put many of the evacuees in dire danger.

Thus, there is an urgent need for the State to establish a sturdy structurally-sound permanent building that can be used as temporary safe haven for evacuation in every city and municipality.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is prayed for.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5109**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DISASTER-RESILIENT MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING IN ALL
CITIES, PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion of the general welfare by addressing the cause of vulnerabilities to disasters and strengthening the institutional capacity or resilience of local communities to disasters.

Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully-equipped and fully-operational disaster-resilient multipurpose building, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the environment.

SECTION 2. Establishment of Disaster-Resilient Multipurpose Buildings. – There shall be established a disaster-resilient multipurpose building in every city, and municipality in the country which shall function as an immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as earthquakes, typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

V. Lacson

SECTION 3. Requirements. – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every multipurpose building that will be established under this Act:

a. **Location Designation** – Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

1. It must be centrally located in the community;
2. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous materials are used and stored, or high-voltage power lines;
3. It must be near a health facility;
4. It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human induced disasters are very high.

b. **Structural and Building Capacity** – The multi-purpose building shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be disaster-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines” or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase. In the construction of multi-purpose buildings, the DPWH shall coordinate with the Local Government Units concerned to determine the suitability of the prescribed specifications, based on the total number of inhabitants in the area.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The multi-purpose building must at least meet the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;

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2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

c. ***Amenities and Accessibility.*** – The evacuation centers shall be well ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

SECTION 4. *Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The local *sanggunian* shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such. *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities only and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of such activities.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster.

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SECTION 5. Construction Priority. – The DPWH shall give priority to barangays whose residents volunteer labor services in the construction thereof and for this purpose, the DPWH shall issue guidelines and receive applications therefor. Barangays that are located in disaster prone areas shall be given the high

SECTION 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the country that (a) are identified as disaster prone; (b) are financially incapable to establish their own disaster-resilient multi-purpose buildings; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

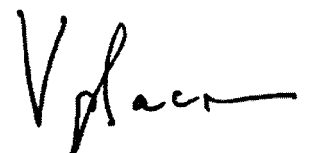
Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected population based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.

SECTION 7. Coordination Among Agencies. – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the multi-purpose buildings that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose buildings to serve shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose buildings shall be included in the annual General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Placer', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

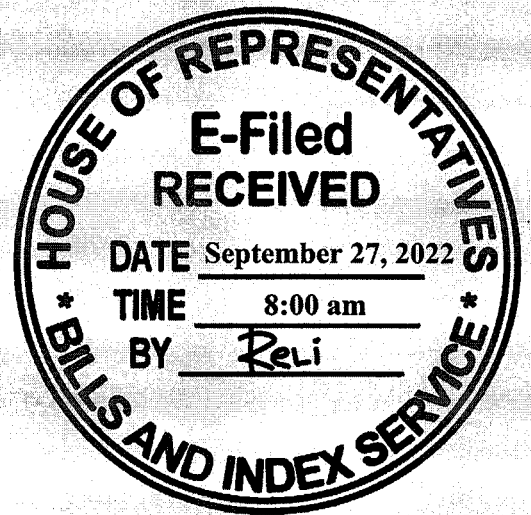
V. Placer



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5158



Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING GREEN EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains one of the world's most disaster-prone countries by virtue of its geographic location. Located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt, the country is regularly impacted by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes, and droughts.

Worldwide, the Philippines remains in the top three countries most affected by climate-related weather catastrophes¹. In the said report, the Philippines ranked second to Haiti in terms of "relative and absolute number of human victims, and relative and absolute economic damage" caused by natural disasters.

Despite the frequency and vulnerability of the country to natural disasters, the resiliency of the Filipino people has made use of schools as the default evacuation centers in times of calamities, disasters, conflicts and emergencies. However, schools are but makeshift evacuation sites and are not well-equipped with necessary facilities for such emergency occurrences and situations.

¹ Germanwatch. Global Climate Risk Index 2014.

When schools and classrooms become makeshift evacuation centers, students are also displaced and are forced to either suspend classes or do so in uncondusive learning environments. This social dilemma during natural disasters and emergency situations must be immediately addressed.

This bill seeks to establish sustainable and quality infrastructure which will serve as green evacuation centers in every city and municipality with the end view of decongesting temporary evacuation centers in public schools and private facilities. These green evacuation centers shall utilize renewable energy, provide water efficiency, and if possible, make use of sustainable materials.

This proposed measure also sets the optimum safety requirements that these evacuation centers should meet. The proposed evacuation centers must be easily accessible to evacuees and emergency rescue personnel and must be able to withstand any natural or man-made disasters. It must be designed to have space that can be used flexibly for recreational activities and as sleeping quarters during the evacuation. It must also be well-ventilated, able to accommodate large groups of people, and must have bathing and toilet amenities.

-- It is the hope of this measure to provide long-term sustainable solutions to a country heavily affected by natural disasters, without compromising the lives and welfare of affected civilians.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR

House Bill No. 5158

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING GREEN EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Green Evacuation Centers in*
2 *Every City and Municipality Act*".
3

4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.***— It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the
5 constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion
6 of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully equipped
7 and fully-operational sustainable evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic
8 events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence
9 of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases
10 and other factors that affect the environment.
11

12 **SECTION 3. *Establishment of Green Evacuation Centers.*** — There shall be established a
13 green evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide
14 immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced
15 from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and
16 other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that
17 present imminent danger to life and property. Existing structures that would meet the minimum
18 requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be
19 designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.
20

21 **SECTION 4. *Defining Green Evacuation Centers.*** — Green evacuation centers refer to
22 designated buildings or infrastructure specifically selected as a location not anticipated to be
23 adversely affected by a particular hazard, that utilize renewable energy, provide water
24 efficiency, and if possible, make use of sustainable materials.
25

26 **SECTION 5. *Requirements.*** — The following shall be the minimum requirements for every
27 green evacuation center that will be established under this Act:
28

29 a) **Location Designation.** - Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined
30 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close
31 coordination with the LGUs concerned.

32 The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- 33 1. It must be centrally located in the community;
- 34 2. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous materials
35 are used and stored, Of high-voltage power lines;
- 36 3. It must be near a health facility;
- 37 4. It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides or
38 exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
- 39 5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power
40 plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced
41 disasters are very high.

42
43 b) **Structural and Building Capacity.** — The evacuation centers shall be constructed and
44 designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred
45 kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 80 magnitude. The
46 structure must be calamity resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with
47 the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National
48 Building Code of the Philippines" or shall be at par with the standards set by the
49 International Building Code.

50
51 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction
52 of green evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall
53 ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH,
54 and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also
55 ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the
56 abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

57
58 The specifications of the green evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if
59 necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

60
61 The green evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

- 62 1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of
63 a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- 64 2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level
65 in the area where the same shall be built; and
- 66 3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed
67 in accordance with earthquake load standards.
- 68 4. The structure shall make use of renewable sources of energy such as but not limited
69 to solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy, tidal energy, geothermal energy, and/or
70 biomass energy.

71
72 c) **Amenities and Accessibility** — The green evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated
73 and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The center
74 shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 75 1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- 76 2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1)
77 facility for every twenty (20) persons;
- 78 3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;

- 79 4. Emergency exit doors;
80 5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
81 6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
82 7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially
83 infectious persons;
84 8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities;
85 9. Internet access facilities;
86 10. Renewable energy-powered facilities; and
87 11. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.
88

89 **SECTION 6. Operation and Management.** - The LGUs concerned shall be primarily
90 responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of green evacuation centers
91 established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on
92 their proper use and maintenance.
93

94 The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of
95 the green evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the
96 utilization of the green evacuation center when it is not used as such: *Provided*, That the green
97 evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use
98 of collapsible amenities only and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability
99 of the green evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided*
100 *further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers
101 of authorized activities when the green evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or
102 loss during or as a result of such activities.
103

104 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as green evacuation centers shall be conducted by
105 the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a
106 hazard or disaster.
107

108 **SECTION 7. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council**
109 **(NDRRMC).** - The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
110 shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas
111 of the country that (a) are identified as disaster prone; (b) are financially incapable to establish
112 their own evacuation centers; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.
113

114 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the
115 maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective
116 areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs
117 in the management of the facility.
118

119 Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation
120 centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters.
121 They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into
122 consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected
123 population based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.
124

125 **SECTION 8. Coordination Among Agencies.** - The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the
126 DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design
127 specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers that will be
128 constructed pursuant to this Act. Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when

129 necessary, shall provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient
130 implementation of this Act.

131

132 **SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
133 effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of
134 Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned
135 government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out
136 the provisions of this Act.

137

138 **SECTION 10. *Appropriation.*** -The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund
139 the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers shall
140 be charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such
141 amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be
142 included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the
143 continued maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

144

145 **SECTION 11. *Non-Impairment Clause.*** - Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to
146 diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged,
147 marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

148

149 **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision is held invalid or unconstitutional, the
150 remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

151

152 **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
153 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with
154 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

155

156 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
157 at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

158

159 *Approved,*

160

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5211



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This commendable bill had been filed in the past Congress and the present proponent is acknowledging the wisdom and hard work of his predecessors.

According to the World Bank, the Philippines, by virtue of its geographical circumstances, is vulnerable to natural disasters. The country is located in the typhoon belt, an area in the western Pacific wherein nearly one-third of the world's tropical cyclones form. Likewise, the country is also situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire where 75% of the world's volcanoes are located and 90% of the world's earthquakes occur. There are also other disasters – natural or manmade – to which the Philippines is prone to, e.g., flooding, landslides, droughts, among others.

As a result, schools are often used as evacuation centers. Thus, these temporary shelters are inaccessible to its students and teachers to accommodate the evacuees. Learning, therefore, is hampered. Considering that schools were constructed for educational purposes, it is unfortunate that these temporary facilities do not have the complete amenities that evacuees need. Churches and convents - which were constructed for religious purposes - are sometimes used as evacuation centers.

It is the duty of the State to protect the lives and welfare of the people. In view hereof, this measure aims to establish evacuation centers in every city and municipality in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this measure is sought.


JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5211

Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

AN ACT ESTABLISHING
EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and maintain a fully equipped and fully operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the environment.

SEC. 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be established an evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

SEC. 3. Requirements. – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

a. Location/Designation – Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

1. It must be centrally located in the community;
2. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous materials are used and stored, Of high-voltage power lines;
3. It must be near a health facility;
4. It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands; and
5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high.

b. **Structural and Building Capacity** – The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines" or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

c. **Amenities and Accessibility.** – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The evacuation centers shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;

6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

SEC. 4. Operation and Management. – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such: *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities only and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of such activities.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster.

SEC 5. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).
– The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the country that (a) are identified as disaster prone; (b) are financially incapable to establish their own evacuation centers; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected population based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.

SEC. 6. *Coordination Among Agencies.* – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation and management of the facility.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC.10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5185



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines' location and geography are the main reasons why the Philippines is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. It is located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt. As a result thereof, the Philippines are regularly affected by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and droughts. Hence, the Philippines ranks among the top countries for population exposure and vulnerability¹.

Natural calamities are not a stranger to Filipinos, annually there are around 10 to 25 natural calamities that affect the Philippines. There are an average of 20 tropical cyclones that enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility every year and roughly 900 earthquakes are also recorded annually².

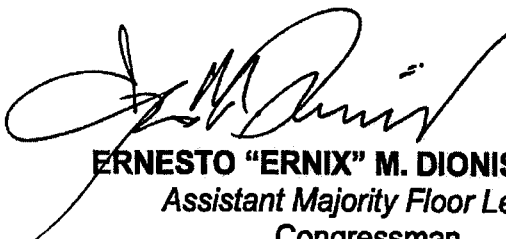
The Philippines is vulnerable to natural calamities as such. Us Filipinos have to endure and survive these disastrous natural phenomena that affect our country.

This bill aims to provide the Filipino people with readily available evacuation centers in every city and municipality. This bill will ensure that in times of occurrence of natural calamities in our country, the victims or those greatly affected by the natural disaster have a safe sanctuary for them to stay in. Given that the Philippines is prone

¹ Perception of Disaster Resilience and Preparedness in the Philippines, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, June 2018.

² Ibid.

to natural disasters such as floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and any other calamity, the immediate approval of this bill is necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5185

Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Local Evacuation Centers Act of 2022."

Section 2. Establishment of evacuation Centers. - There shall be established an evacuation center "in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought, and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present Imminent danger to life and property.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

Section 3. Requirements. - The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

a. **Location Designation.** - Each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

That location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

1. It must be centrally located in the community;

2. It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous materials are used and stored, or high-voltage power lines;
3. It must be near a health facility;
4. It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
5. It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high.

b. **Structural and Building Capacity.** - The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines" or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as well as the Department of Health (DOH), other concerned government agencies and instrumentalities and non-government organizations, shall be consulted in the construction of the evacuation centers.

The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

The evacuation centers must at least meet the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

c. **Amenities and Accessibility.** ~ The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
4. Emergency exit doors;
5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
7. Health care areas which shall include isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

Section 4. Operation and management - The LCDs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

The Local Sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation centers under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such: *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities and those that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of such activities.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster.

Section 5. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Progressive Realization of this Act - The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. The objectives of this Act shall be realized progressively. In implementing this Act, the NDRRMC shall prioritize the construction of evacuation centers based on the LGUs: (a) vulnerability to disasters/calamities; (b) financial capability; and (c) existing evacuation centers suitable to their needs.

The NDRRMC shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected populations based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster.

Section 6. Coordination among Agencies. - The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities such as the DOH and DSWD when necessary, shall provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, DSWD, DOH, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of multipurpose gyms to serve as evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget for this purpose under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation, and management of the facility.

Section 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision, section, or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,