



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

'22 JUL -7 P4 :55

SENATE
S. No. 193

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTER IN ALL CITIES,
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "[t]he maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy."

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, attributed primarily to the country's location. The country is positioned along the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," an area where earthquakes and volcanic activities are more frequent than in any other part of the world. Further, the country fronts the Pacific Ocean, exposing it to a high number of typhoons and related weather disturbances annually; with the onset of climate change, these extreme disturbances will only serve to drastically increase the severity of natural disasters.

We can no longer deny the plight of the Filipino people who live along coastal communities and many others who are prone to such dangers. It is incumbent upon us that we realize and sympathize with their pain and grief when their homes and livelihood get destroyed in the middle of an earthquake, or when they are caught in between the crossfire of an armed conflict, withered by the crushing winds of a super

typhoon, or when flames engulf their household turning their hopes and dreams into ashes.

When these disasters strike, the Filipinos, especially the underprivileged, suffer the most. In most instances, these disasters render their homes unlivable, leaving the victims without roofs over their heads and food on their plates.

We must take action before the onslaught of any disaster. Hence, it is high time that the State establish evacuation centers in all cities, provinces, and municipalities which will cater to the basic needs of the victims of these disasters and provide them temporary shelters that will guarantee their safety, promote their social wellbeing, and guard their welfare while they recover and rebuild their homes and their lives.

The construction and maintenance of evacuation centers in all localities shall be implemented by a coordinated Department of Public Works and Highways, the LGUs concerned, and other line agencies. This will strengthen preparation and improve response capacity for future disasters.

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


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO






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

1 Section 1. *Title of the Act.* – This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory
2 Evacuation Center Act of 2022."

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 protect the people's right to life and property that is rooted and embedded in our
6 Constitution, and to promote their general welfare. It is for this reason that the
7 establishment of an evacuation center shall be undertaken in all cities, provinces, and
8 municipalities to address the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate
9 change and other human-made disasters. This is also to strengthen the country's
10 institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities to adhere and
11 adopt the universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

12
13 Sec. 3. *Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers.* – There shall be an
14 established evacuation center in every city, province and municipality throughout the
15 country which shall provide basic needs and assistance to all evacuees, and shall serve
16 as their temporary shelter that will guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all who have

1 become victims of natural calamities or any other hazards/emergency events such as,
2 typhoons, floods, fire, storm surges, weather disturbances and outbreak of
3 illnesses/diseases that may cause imminent danger to their life and property.

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

7
8 *A. Location/Designation* – each location for every evacuation center shall be
9 determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
10 (DENR) in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

11
12 The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

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

22
23 *B. Structural/Building Capacity* – The evacuation centers shall be constructed
24 and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three
25 hundred (300) kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least 8.0
26 magnitude. Evacuation centers should be calamity-resilient, be built with
27 sturdy materials, and be built in accordance with the specifications of
28 Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of
29 the Philippines” and should be at par with the standards set by the
30 International Building Code.

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

4
5 The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers
6 is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction phase.

7
8 The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed and,
9 if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three years.

10
11 The structural capacity should at least meet the following parameters:

- 12
13 a. The structure must be elevated in such a manner that it will withstand likely
14 impact from a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
15
16 b. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood
17 level in the area where the same shall be built; and
18
19 c. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and designed
20 in accordance with earthquake load standards.

21
22 *C. Amenities and Accessibility of the Evacuation Center* – The evacuation
23 centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate
24 a large number of evacuees. The centers shall have the following minimum
25 amenities:

- 26
27 1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
28 2) Separate Shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with
29 a facility-to-user ratio of 1:20 persons;
30 3) Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
31 4) Provisions for emergency/exit doors;

- 1 5) Food preparation areas which are provided with adequate ventilation;
- 2 6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 3 7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation and/or quarantine area
- 4 for potentially infectious persons;
- 5 8) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- 6 9) Other facilities prescribed in DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepED Joint Memorandum
- 7 Circular No. 1 Series of 2013, entitled "Guidelines on Evacuation Center and
- 8 Management."

9

10 *Sec. 5. Operations and Management of the Evacuation Center.* – The LGUs

11 concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and

12 management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby

13 authorized to issue rules and regulations on the proper use and maintenance of the

14 evacuation centers.

15

16 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be

17 conducted by Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer and/or the building official at least

18 once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster event.

19

20 *Sec. 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.*

21 – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through

22 the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), shall be the primary lead agency which shall oversee

23 the implementation of this act.

24

25 *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to fund the construction and

26 maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of

27 the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary

28 for the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be included in the

29 list of programs as part of annual budget in the General Appropriations Act.

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

4
5 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety days (90) after
6 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Local Interior and Local Government
7 (DILG), DPWH, and OCD, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies
8 concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations necessary to carry out
9 the objectives of this Act.

10
11 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
12 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
13 and effect.

14
15 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or parts thereof
16 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
17 accordingly.

18
19 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of
21 general circulation.

22
23 *Approved,*