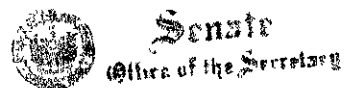


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



'15 AUG 19 P2:09

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2906

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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**AN ACT  
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION FOR  
CHILDREN DURING A DISASTER, CALAMITY, AND OTHER EMERGENCY  
SITUATIONS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Children are vulnerable during disasters, calamities and other emergency situations. They are gravely threatened and endangered by circumstances affecting their survival and normal development. Thus, we must institutionalize measures to provide them the needed emergency relief and protection. This bill seeks to do just that. It seeks to establish a comprehensive and strategic program for children affected by disasters, calamities and other emergency situations. By this proposed measure, we are protecting children against acts prejudicial to their interest and well-being, such as neglect, abuse, and exploitation.

The comprehensive program for children will include, among others, the establishment of shelter for displaced children, immediate delivery of basic necessities and services, institutionalization of stronger measures to ensure the safety and security of affected children, timely delivery of health, medical, and nutrition services, plan of action for prompt resumption of educational services for children, establishment of an emergency center, and promotion of children's rights.

Furthermore, this proposal provides for heightened surveillance against child trafficking, child labor, child prostitution. It also provides for professionalization of first responders by providing them the training they need.


In view of all these, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.



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**CHILDREN DURING A DISASTER, CALAMITY, AND OTHER EMERGENCY**  
**SITUATIONS**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Children’s Emergency  
2 Relief and Protection Act.”

3  
4           **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 protect the fundamental rights of children during disaster, calamity, and other  
6 emergency situations when children are gravely threatened or endangered by  
7 circumstances that will affect their survival and normal development. Towards this end,  
8 the State shall establish and implement a comprehensive and strategic program of  
9 action to provide the children affected by a disaster, calamity, and other emergency  
10 situations with utmost support and assistance necessary for their immediate recovery  
11 and protection against all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and other acts prejudicial  
12 to their interest and well-being.

13  
14           **Section 3. Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children.** – The Department  
15 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Office of Civil  
16 Defense (OCD) and with the participation of accredited child-focused national and  
17 international nongovernment organizations, shall formulate a Comprehensive  
18 Emergency Program for Children which shall be implemented immediately after the  
19 declaration of a national or local state of calamity to protect the children and support  
20 their immediate recovery.

1           The Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children, hereinafter referred to as  
2 the Program, shall be gender-sensitive and shall have the following components:

3           (a) Establishment of Shelter for Displaced Children – The Program shall prioritize  
4 and provide housing options for displaced children, families with children, and  
5 children separated from their families or relatives. The DSWD shall, in  
6 coordination with the local government units of the areas declared under the  
7 state of calamity, immediately establish an option for shelter or permanent  
8 housing. The shelter shall have emergency latrines, bathing cubicles, and  
9 hand washing facility. It shall provide child-friendly spaces where children can  
10 take part in child activities. It shall also have provisions for maternal and baby  
11 care and rooms to protect and ensure the right to privacy;

12           (b) Assurance for Immediate Delivery of Basic Necessities and Services – The  
13 Program shall facilitate and ensure the immediate delivery of basic  
14 necessities and services specifically needed by the affected children and  
15 youth in different stages of development. It shall provide the affected children  
16 with basic necessities for survival which include food, water, nutrition,  
17 medicines, clothing, sanitary and hygiene kits, and other emergency needs  
18 such as blankets, mosquito nets, cooking ware and flashlights. The Program  
19 shall give priority to the specific needs and nutrition of pregnant women,  
20 lactating mothers, newborn babies, and children under two (2) years old;

21           (c) Stronger measures to ensure the safety and security of affected children –  
22 Under the Program, the DSWD shall, in coordination with the Armed Forces  
23 of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), monitor  
24 and ensure the safety and the security of the affected children in the areas  
25 declared under the state of calamity and shall protect them against all forms  
26 of abuse and exploitation;

27           (d) Timely Delivery of Health, Medical, and Nutrition Services – Under the  
28 Program, the DSWD shall, in coordination with the Department of Health  
29 (DOH) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC), immediately provide the  
30 health, medical, and nutrition needs of the children in the areas declared  
31 under the state of calamity including psychosocial interventions for children  
32 and youth in different stages of development. The DOH shall give highest  
33 priority to the treatment and rehabilitation of pregnant mothers and babies;

34           (e) Plan of Action for Prompt Resumption of Educational Services for Children. –  
35 The DSWD shall, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepED),  
36 ensure the prompt resumption of educational services for children;

37           (f) Establishment of an Emergency Center – Within five (5) days from the  
38 declaration of a national or local state of calamity, the DSWD shall set up a

1 children's emergency center in every city or municipality declared under the  
2 state of calamity which shall provide the necessary child care services and  
3 shall coordinate with the lead agencies to effectively respond to the needs of  
4 the children in the area; and

5 (g) Promotion of Children's Rights – The Program shall include activities and  
6 processes that will promote and uphold the rights of children by:

7 (1) Promoting a child-centered training for all first responders;

8 (2) Ensuring that children are provided with adequate access to age-  
9 appropriate information on the proper action, roles, duties and  
10 responsibilities of various government agencies during calamities and  
11 other emergency situations;

12 (3) Consulting with the affected children on their needs and priorities for  
13 post-disaster relief and recovery; and

14 (4) Providing for an effective mechanism for training and meaningful  
15 participation of children in community disaster risk reduction program.  
16

17 **SEC. 4. Evacuation Centers.** – Only in cases where there is no other available  
18 place or structure which can be used as a general evacuation center may a school be  
19 used as an evacuation center.

20 When a school is used as an evacuation center, the use shall be limited to the  
21 areas or spaces in the school that are not used as classroom such as gymnasiums,  
22 auditoriums and other open spaces. The use of the school premises shall not exceed  
23 thirty (30) days after the declaration of a state of national or local calamity, unless the  
24 extension is absolutely necessary. If the use exceeds thirty (30) days, the National  
25 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall, in coordination  
26 with the Local DRRMC, provide written documentation to the DepED on the following:

27 (a) The name and location of the school;

28 (b) All alternative sites and the rationale for final site selection; and

29 (c) Measures being implemented to prevent interference or disruption to the  
30 school and educational activities of children.

31 When temporary learning spaces or other transitional and semi-permanent  
32 structures are used as classrooms after a disaster, the DepED shall continuously  
33 monitor and assess the condition of such structures in order to ensure the safety of the  
34 children and provide optimal learning environments.

35 Where temporary learning spaces or other transitional and semi-permanent  
36 structures are used for more than six (6) months after the declaration of a state of  
37 calamity, the regional DepED office shall conduct quarterly site inspections and shall

1 certify to the Secretary of Education that such spaces are in good physical condition  
2 and sufficient to ensure the safety of the children and their environment.

3  
4 **SEC. 5. *Unaccompanied or Separated Children.*** – In case of children who lost  
5 their families or who are separated from their families and relatives, the DSWD shall  
6 document and provide adequate care, initiate tracing of immediate relatives, and  
7 proceed with the reunification services. All appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure  
8 the early reunion of unaccompanied or separated children with their families or  
9 immediate relatives.

10  
11 **SEC. 6. *Data Gathering and Reporting*** – In the aftermath of a national or local  
12 state of calamity, the collection and reporting of data at all levels shall be disaggregated  
13 by age and gender. Such collected data shall be utilized to understand and respond  
14 better to the needs of the children affected by disasters and calamities.

15  
16 **SEC 7. *Heightened Surveillance Against Child Trafficking, Child Labor,***  
17 ***Child Prostitution, and Violence on Children.*** – Upon the declaration of a national or  
18 local state of calamity, the PNP and the DSWD shall immediately heighten  
19 comprehensive surveillance and monitoring to prevent child trafficking, labor, and  
20 prostitution, including domestic and sexual violence, in the areas declared under the  
21 state of calamity. Within three (3) days from the declaration of a national or local state of  
22 calamity, the PNP Chief and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall  
23 jointly submit written documentation and report on their surveillance and monitoring to  
24 the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

25  
26 **SEC. 8. *System of Restoring Legal Documents.*** – To ensure that vital  
27 information pertaining to the personal circumstances of a child are adequately protected  
28 and available at all times, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall develop a  
29 system for the restoration and reconstitution of legal documents that have been  
30 destroyed or declared lost or missing during a disaster or calamity, within two (2) weeks  
31 after the submission of the application for the reconstitution or replacement of the  
32 destroyed or missing document. The PSA shall submit copies of such reconstituted  
33 documents to appropriate government agencies for effective monitoring and reporting  
34 and to ensure the continued access of the affected children to social services and  
35 facilitate the reunification of separated children with their families or immediate relatives.

36  
37 **SEC. 9. *Training of First Responders*** – The NDRRMC shall promote and  
38 conduct a child-centered training program for all first responders in the calamity area

1 such as community and barangay leaders, school personnel and other rescuers. The  
2 training program shall include the following:

3 (a) Proper procedures and measures to safeguard and protect the affected  
4 children during and after emergencies and disasters; and

5 (b) Appropriate training on psychosocial interventions for children and youth in  
6 different stages of development who are victims of calamities.

7  
8 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within ninety (90) days from  
9 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, in  
10 consultation and coordination with the Director of the OCD, the Secretary of Health, the  
11 Secretary of Education, the PNP Chief and the AFP Chief of Staff, shall promulgate the  
12 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

13  
14 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause***. – If any provision of part of this Act is declared  
15 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in  
16 full force and effect.

17  
18 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause***. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,  
19 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are  
20 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

21  
22 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
23 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

***Approved.***