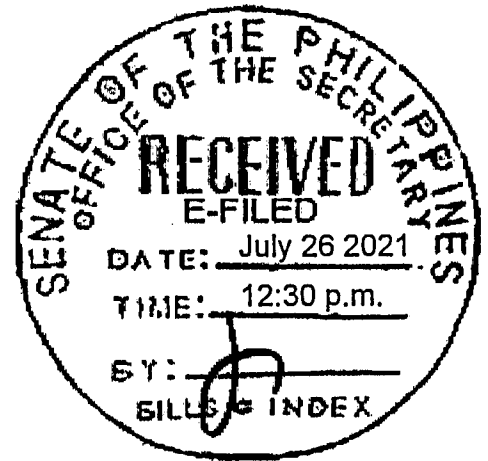


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 2325

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries from climate change. Because of its geographic location in the Pacific Ocean, our country is visited by no less than twenty typhoons every year. The Philippines is also situated in the Ring of Fire, a belt characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Being an archipelagic country, our islands are also exposed to threats of rising sea levels, storm surges and massive floods. In the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, the Philippines was identified as the fourth most affected country in the world by extreme weather events from 2000 to 2019.

Indeed, there is a need to mitigate the adverse impact of these disasters, paramount of which is the prevention of the loss of lives. There is a need to adapt to these occurrences, and heighten preparedness and community resilience during emergencies.

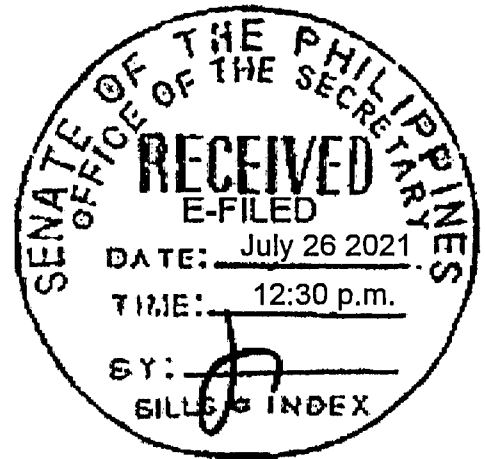
This measure aims to establish a vast network of fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation centers in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been relocated or displaced from their homes due to emergency or natural calamities. It specifies the minimum requirements for its location, capacity and amenities to ensure the safety and humane living conditions of evacuees, as well as the roles and

responsibilities of concerned executive agencies and local government units in relation to its construction, operation and management.

This bill is also part of the updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, in view of reducing vulnerabilities of Filipinos from environmental and natural risks. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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*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 "*City and Municipal*
2 *Evacuation Centers Act.*"

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

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

16 Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be

1 upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in
2 compliance with the local government unit concerned.

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

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

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

- 9 1) It must be located on geotechnically stable land and safe areas not
10 susceptible to landslides, flooding, storm surges, and other
11 hydrological and meteorological hazards, based on the most current
12 risk assessments using geo-hazard maps;
- 13 2) It must be centrally and/or strategically located within the community
14 to enable immediate access to basic goods, public utilities, and
15 services, such as health care facilities, markets, water, electricity, and
16 communication;
- 17 3) It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent
18 groups, power plants or high voltage power lines, factories, structures
19 where hazardous materials are used and stored, and other areas
20 where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high;
- 21 4) It shall not be located within or very close to “no-build zones” or
22 easement areas defined in the Water Code, Civil Code and Revised
23 Forestry Code of the Philippines, and “hazard zones” or areas
24 identified in hazard maps as susceptible to natural hazards.

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

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

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

11 The evacuation center 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 a high tide storm surge 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 evacuation centers shall be well-
19 ventilated, allow high levels of natural light, and have the capacity to
20 accommodate a large number of evacuees, with proper facilities and
21 provisions that will guarantee humane living conditions of evacuees and
22 ensure that the needs of special population groups are met. The evacuation
23 center shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 24 1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- 25 2) Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females,
26 with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
- 27 3) Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities and
28 senior citizens;
- 29 4) Emergency exit doors;
- 30 5) Food storage and preparation areas;
- 31 6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;

- 1 7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area
- 2 for potentially infectious persons;
- 3 8) Child-friendly spaces and/or play and learning areas;
- 4 9) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- 5 10) Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

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

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

20 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be
21 conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after
22 the occurrence of a hazard or disaster, to ensure its structural integrity, compliance to
23 existing standards, and the safety of the possible evacuees.

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

30 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concurrent LGUs
31 for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center

1 in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and
2 support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

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

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

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

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

21 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
22 to fund the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as
23 evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose
24 under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multi-
25 purpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the annual General
26 Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance,
27 operation and management of the facility.

28 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
30 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

31 *Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
32 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or

1 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
2 accordingly.

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

Approved,