

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



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SENATE

S. No. 1200

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 for the period 2000–2019 is based on average values over a twenty-year period. It ranks to what extent countries have been affected by climate-related weather events such as storms and floods. Based on the same, the Philippines is the fourth most affected country affected by extreme weather events for the past two decades. Even in 2015, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 56% of the 100 cities most exposed to natural hazards are concentrated in just four countries: the Philippines, China, Japan, and Bangladesh.

The vulnerability to frequent climate-related catastrophes could be attributed to the fact that the Philippines is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, where several earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

In recognition of this vulnerability, this bill seeks to establish and maintain a fully equipped and fully operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic events, in every city and municipality. This is to provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events and outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

Sa dalas po ng kalamidad na tumatama sa ating bansa ay kailangan po tayong magkaroon ng permanenteng struktura para po sa ating mga kababayan lalo na sa pinaka-bulnerableng mga lugar. Makatutulong po ito hindi lamang para magligtas ng buhay kundi para magbigay ng kapanatagan sa ating mga kababayan at maipakita sa kanila na laging handa at nakaantabay ang ating gobyerno na bigyan sila ng matutuluyan sa panahon ng delubyo.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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1 **AN ACT**

2 **ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND**
3 **MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

4 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Ligtas Pinoy Centers*
5 *Act of 2022.*"

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

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

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

4 Section 4. *Requirements.* – The following shall be the minimum requirements
5 for every Ligtas Pinoy Center that will be established under this Act:

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

9 That location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

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

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

27 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge
28 of the construction of evacuation centers, including the formulation of
29 building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on

1 standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are
2 compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. The DPWH shall
3 also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers is in
4 accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its construction
5 phase.

6 The specifications of the Ligtas Pinoy Centers shall be periodically reviewed
7 and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.

8 The Ligtas Pinoy Centers must at least meet the following parameters:

- 9 1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the
10 reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- 11 2. The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood
12 level in the area where the same shall be built; and
- 13 3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be
14 designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.
- 15 c. *Amenities and Accessibility.* – The evacuation centers shall be well-
16 ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of
17 evacuees. The evacuation center shall have the following minimum
18 amenities:
 - 19 1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
 - 20 2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females,
21 with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
 - 22 3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
 - 23 4. Emergency exit doors;
 - 24 5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
 - 25 6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
 - 26 7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for
27 potentially infectious persons;
 - 28 8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
 - 29 9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

30 Section 5. *Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily

1 responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers
2 established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and
3 regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

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

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

16 Section 6. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management*
17 *Council (NDRRMC) and Progressive Realization of this Act.* – The National Disaster
18 Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing
19 agency of this Act. The objectives of this Act shall be realized progressively. In
20 implementing this Act, the NDRRMC shall prioritize the construction of Ligtas Pinoy
21 Centers based on the LGUs: (a) vulnerability to disasters/calamities; (b) financial
22 capability; and (c) existing evacuation centers suitable to their needs.

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

27 Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for
28 evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in
29 times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and

1 management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and
2 meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected population based on acceptable
3 standards during or immediately after a disaster.

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

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

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

16 Section 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial
17 implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of multipurpose gyms to
18 serve as evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget for this purpose under
19 the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of multipurpose
20 gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations
21 Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance, operation, and
22 management of the facility.

23 Section 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, section, or part of this Act
24 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgement shall not affect, invalidate
25 or impair any other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

26 Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and
27 regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of
28 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 Section 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4 *Approved,*