

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

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2677

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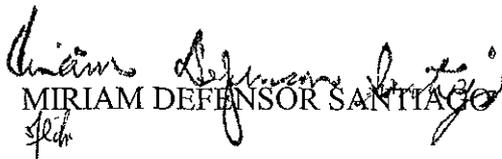
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the countries which is often visited by various natural calamities such as floods and earthquakes. Man-made disasters such as fires and flash floods are also common occurrences.

It is important to have institutionalized programs and services that will readily provide communities aid in times in times of disasters and emergencies.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
Spdr

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING ONE LOCAL EMERGENCY CENTER  
IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

*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 “Local Emergency Centers Act of 2007”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to: (1) provide emergency centers throughout the country to aid citizens during times of disaster and calamities; and (2) provide proper disaster preparedness and emergency rescue training to volunteers.

SECTION 3. *Local Emergency Centers.* There shall be established one Local Emergency Center (hereinafter referred to as Center) in every municipality throughout the country.

SECTION 4. *Membership and training.* – All able-bodied citizens who are 18 years of age and above, and resident of the respective municipality where they are applying for membership with the Center, shall be eligible for membership. Members of the Centers shall undergo proper disaster preparedness and emergency rescue training. Trainees shall be provided with the necessary materials and paraphernalia as needed during the course of their training.

SECTION 5. *Purpose of the Centers* . – The purpose of a local emergency centers shall be:

1. to provide temporary housing, medical, and humanitarian assistance to individuals and families dislocated due to an emergency or major disaster;
2. to provide centralized locations for the purpose of training; and
3. to provide centralized locations to improve the coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of government, private, and not-for-profit entities and faith-based organizations.

SECTION 6. *Minimum requirements of Centers*. - A site designated as a local emergency center shall be—

1. capable of meeting for an extended period of time the housing, health, and other humanitarian needs of a large number of individuals affected by an emergency or major disaster;
2. environmentally safe and shall not pose a health risk to individuals who may use the center;
3. capable of housing necessary equipment for training and first responders coordination requirements during non-disaster periods;
4. capable of hosting the infrastructure necessary to rapidly adjust to temporary housing, medical, and humanitarian assistance needs; and
5. easily accessible at all times and be able to facilitate handicapped and medical facilities, including during an emergency or major disaster.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Agency*. – The Department of National Defense (DND), in coordination with the respective local government units shall be the implementing agencies for this Act. The DND shall formulate implementing rules and regulations for this Act not later than 90 days after its enactment.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *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, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.