



SENATE

'19 JUL 24 A11 :56

S. B. No. 747

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Introduced by SEN. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY
AND CITY, PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FACILITIES, ENSURING
THEIR STRUCTURAL CAPACITY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an evacuation center in every municipality and city in the country and to ensure the structural capacity of evacuation centers.

The Philippines has been frequently affected by climate-related weather events in recent years which have damaged property and caused the loss of many lives. More intense typhoons, higher sea levels, and storm surges have affected a great number of the population. Coastal communities and informal settlements in urban areas are the most vulnerable to floods in times of weather disturbances. Every time a typhoon hits the country or when monsoon rains cause heavy flooding, many people are displaced and need to be relocated to evacuation centers. The importance of a permanent and fully operational evacuation center with the necessary facilities in place cannot be disregarded during a calamity, whether natural or human-induced, or in times of armed

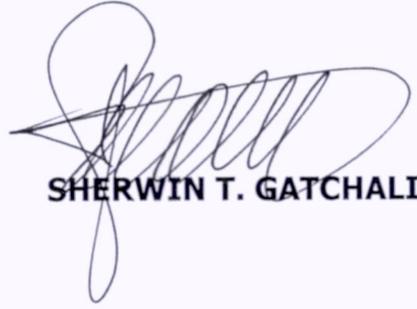
conflict when residents of a community need to be relocated.

In the Philippines, it is a common practice to use schools as evacuation centers in times of calamities which causes the disruption of school activities. Hence, this bill proposes to establish an evacuation center in every municipality and city with priority given to the local government units with the most vulnerable communities and with less secure infrastructure. This measure also emphasizes the need to ensure the structural capacity of existing evacuation centers and those that will be constructed in the future. It is imperative that strict compliance with the National Building Code of the Philippines is observed and that inputs of structural engineers are integrated into the design and specifications of evacuation centers to ensure that it can withstand climatic and other hazards.

It is also recognized that building an evacuation center for all municipalities and cities at the same time is not feasible. Under this measure, the NDRRMC is mandated to determine which municipalities and cities will be given priority and he provided with a new evacuation center. In order to ease the pressure on classrooms of schools already utilized as evacuation centers, constructing additional facilities in these schools is also an option in areas where it will be difficult to have a new evacuation center.

The establishment of permanent evacuation centers with the necessary facilities will address the issues encountered by evacuees including congestion, exposure to hazards and lack of facilities. It will also enhance the delivery of social services during calamities and help minimize the loss of lives.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

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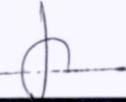
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 SEC. 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the
2 "*Evacuation Center Act.*"

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - This Act recognizes the
4 constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and their
5 property and the promotion of their general welfare. Towards this end,
6 the State, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate
7 change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or
8 human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that
9 affect the environment, shall institutionalize the governments' effort to
10 establish and maintain fully equipped and fully-operational evacuation
11 centers and provide the necessary facilities to sites used as evacuation
12 centers to make them responsive to environmental or climatic events.

13 Furthermore, it shall be the continuing policy of the State to
14 provide the appropriate facilities for evacuees in evacuation centers and
15 to ensure the structural capacity of evacuation centers.

1 SEC. 3. **Establishment of Evacuation Centers.** -There shall be
2 established an evacuation center in every city and municipality in the
3 Philippines which shall provide immediate and temporary
4 accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from
5 their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm
6 surges, drought and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and
7 the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that presents imminent
8 danger to life and property.

9 SEC. 4. **Facility Requirements.** - The following shall be the
10 minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be
11 established under this Act:

12 a) *Location* - The evacuation center should not be at risk of
13 isolation. It should be located at a safe distance from danger areas or
14 hazards. The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
15 (LDRRMC) of the local government unit (LGU) concerned shall coordinate
16 with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to
17 determine the appropriate location of the evacuation center.

18 The following shall be considered in identifying an ideal site for an
19 evacuation center:

- 20 1) Drainage;
21 2) Elevation;
22 3) Protection from strong winds;
23 4) Accessibility to and proximity from the vulnerable
24 community;
25 5) Availability of the following in the immediate vicinity:
26 i) Parking areas for emergency and other vehicles;
27 ii) Allocated area for additional portable toilets;
28 iii) Storage tanks for potable and non-potable water; and
29 iv) Safe shelter for livestock.

30
31 b) *Structural Capacity* - New evacuation centers and improvements in
32 schools used as an evacuation center which will be constructed after the

1 effectivity of this Act must be made of construction materials which are in
2 accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise
3 known as the "*National Building Code of the Philippines*," and be able to
4 withstand wind speeds of three hundred twenty (320) kilometers per hour or
5 two hundred (200) miles per hour and moderate seismic activity of at least
6 7.2 magnitude.

7 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be
8 responsible in formulating the appropriate specifications for evacuation
9 centers and to ensure compliance with these specifications during the
10 construction of evacuation centers. The specifications shall be
11 periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three
12 years.

13 c) *Suitability and Capacity of Premises* - If the building is not
14 primarily a shelter or permanent site as an evacuation center, considerations
15 should be made on its impact to normal business if its
16 operation as an evacuation center is prolonged or its normal function is
17 taken off for an extended period of time.

18 The number and diversity of evacuees as well as public health and
19 safety concerns should be considered in the suitability of the premises.

20 It must likewise be able to provide electricity, back-up power
21 supply, water, sewerage system, solid waste management, and physical
22 mobility for people with mobility aids.

23 d) *Physical Amenities* - The evacuation and relief center should
24 be able to provide the following minimum facilities:

- 25 1) Sleeping area;
- 26 2) Eating area;
- 27 3) Shower and toilet facilities which should accommodate
28 twenty (20) people per shower or toilet room, and should be
29 utilized according to gender;
- 30 4) Kitchen or food preparation area;
- 31 5) Trash collection area;
- 32 6) Clinic area including an isolation area for potentially

- 1 infectious people;
2 7) Laundry area;
3 8) Recreation area; and
4 9) Pet and livestock holding area.

5 e) *Food Safety* - Kitchen and dining facilities should be able to
6 cater for the number of people in the evacuation center. Food preparation
7 and storage facilities should comply with satisfactory standards of the
8 Department of Health on cleanliness to minimize the potential for
9 contamination and invasion of insects and pests.

10 **SEC. 5. *Priority in the Establishment of Evacuation Centers.*** -
11 The NDRRMC shall, in coordination with local chief executives of
12 provinces, cities, and municipalities, identify areas to be given the
13 highest priority in the establishment of new evacuation centers.

14 Upon determination by the NDRRMC and the chief executives of
15 LGUs, the NDRRMC shall make a priority list of LGUs needing
16 evacuation centers. The frequency of occurrence of calamities, whether
17 natural or human-induced, and the number of displaced persons in the
18 LOU during said calamities in the past three years may be considered in
19 coming up with the priority list.

20 **SEC. 6. *Improvement of Schools or Structures Used as***
21 ***Evacuation Centers.*** - When an LGU is included in the priority list of
22 LGUs which need an evacuation center pursuant to Section 5 of this Act
23 and there is no available site where the government can construct a new
24 evacuation center, the NDRRMC may instead consider the improvement
25 of facilities in schools or other structures already being used as
26 evacuation center by the LOU to make it comply with the provisions of
27 Section 4 of this Act, particularly on the requirement on location and
28 structural capacity.

29 **SEC. 7. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and***
30 ***Management Council.*** - The National Disaster Risk Reduction and
31 Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead agency in
32 implementing this Act. It shall ensure that the requirements of this Act

1 are faithfully complied with.

2 SEC. 8. **Coordination Among Agencies.** - The NDRRMC shall
3 coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and
4 Technology with regard the design specifications, cost estimates and
5 construction details of new evacuation centers that will be constructed
6 pursuant to this Act.

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

10 SEC. 9. **Operation and Maintenance of Evacuation Centers.** -
11 The operation and management of evacuation centers shall be under the
12 auspices of the LGU where the evacuation center is situated while the
13 DPWH shall be charged with the maintenance of evacuation centers that
14 will be constructed under this Act.

15 The local Sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures
16 for the use and operation of the evacuation centers under their
17 jurisdiction. The guidelines shall include provisions on the use of the
18 evacuation center when it is not being utilized as an evacuation center
19 including its utilization as a classroom, livelihood center, youth center,
20 or multi-purpose center to benefit the constituents of the LGU.

21 The Department of Education shall be charged with maintaining
22 the additional facilities of schools which will be constructed in
23 accordance with Section 6 of this Act.

24 SEC. 10. **Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the
25 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the
26 Department of Public Works and Highways with respect to the construction
27 and maintenance of new evacuation centers. For this purpose, the DPWH
28 shall include in its programs and annual budget the maintenance of
29 evacuation centers constructed under this Act.

30 The amount necessary for the operation of the evacuation centers
31 shall be charged to the funds of the LDRRMC.

32 The construction and maintenance of additional facilities for

1 schools already used as evacuation centers shall be charged to the
2 appropriations for the Department of Education. Thereafter, such
3 amount needed by the concerned Department for the continued
4 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
5 Appropriations Act.

6 SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this
7 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or
8 provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

9 SEC. 12. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules
10 and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are
11 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 SEC. 13. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
13 days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
14 circulation.

Approved,