



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7354

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, ECLEO, ADIONG, PALMA, RIVERA, ONGCHUAN, ZAMORA (M.C.), TAN-TAMBU, CRUZ (A.), SAKALURAN, MARAÑON, RECTO, CARI, REVILLA (R.J.), MASTURA, VILLARICA, LAZATIN, ALBANO, CAGAS, OLIVAREZ, YU (D.G.), VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), HORIBATA, ENCISO, GOLEZ, PUMAREN, TAN (K.M.), DELOS SANTOS, LARA, GUINTU, DUTERTE, YAP (ERIC), BOLILIA, VARGAS, ARROGANCIA, GOMEZ, ROMERO, TAMBUNTING, LACSON, CASTRO (F.), BROSAS, MANUEL, HARESCO, DIONISIO, VIOLAGO, LUISTRO, TEVES (J.), GATCHALIAN, VERZOSA, MATUGAS, CORVERA, BULUT-BEGTANG, MADRONA, SALCEDA, BARONDA, GALEOS, GARCIA (D.), KHO (O.), PAGLAS, REGENCIA, REVILLA (B.), AMANTE, MORDEN, CHAN, AUMENTADO, BALINDONG, OUANO-DIZON, ROMUALDO, BORDADO, PLEYTO, ALMONTE, CO (E.), PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, SUAREZ, HERRERA, QUIMBO, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAMPOS, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, DEL MAR, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ADVINCULA, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, CO-PILAR, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), MACEDA, MAGSINO, MANIQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VERGARA, YAP (C.), AGARAO, BENITEZ, BUHAIN, DALOG, FLORES, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, MERCADO-REVILLA, ORDANES, ORTEGA, ROMULO, SAULOG, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, YAP (EDVIC), DY (F.), YU (J.V.), TUTOR, RILLO AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 351

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It shall be the policy of the State to
2 uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property
3 and the promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish
4 and maintain a safe, fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation center,
5 responsive to environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the
6 Philippines to climate change, and hazards such as the occurrence of severe floods,
7 typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other
8 factors that affect the environment.

9 It shall be the continuing policy of the State to ensure the structural capacity of
10 evacuation centers and to provide the necessary and appropriate support facilities.

11 **SEC. 2. *Establishment of Evacuation Centers.*** – There shall be established
12 an evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide
13 immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or
14 displaced from their homes due to disasters, calamities or other emergency events

1 such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, drought and other severe climate
2 disturbances, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present
3 imminent danger to life and property.

4 Existing structures that can meet the minimum requirements or can be
5 upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers may be designated as such
6 according to the needs of the local government unit (LGU) concerned.

7 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is mandated to
8 construct the evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications
9 and shall ensure that the same are compliant with the provisions of Republic Act No.
10 6541, otherwise known as “The National Building Code of the Philippines.”

11 **SEC. 3. Priority in the Establishment of Evacuation Centers.** – The National
12 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall, in coordination
13 with local executives of provinces, cities, and municipalities, identify areas to be given
14 the highest priority in the establishment of new evacuation centers.

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

20 **SEC. 4. Improvement of Schools or Structures used as Evacuation**
21 **Centers.** – When an LGU is included in the priority list of LGUs which need an
22 evacuation center pursuant to Section 6 of this Act, and there is no available site where
23 the government can construct a new evacuation center, the NDRRMC may instead
24 consider the improvement of facilities in schools or other structures already being used

1 as evacuation center by the LGU to comply with the provisions of Section 6 of this Act,
2 particularly on the requirement on location and structural capacity.

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

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

17 The Department of Education (DepEd) shall be in charge with the maintenance,
18 repair, and upgrading of the additional facilities of schools which will be constructed in
19 accordance with Section 4 of this Act.

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.

23 **SEC. 6. Requirements.** – The following shall be the minimum requirements for
24 every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

1 **(a) Location Designation** – Each location for every evacuation center shall be
2 determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
3 in close coordination with the LGUs concerned. The evacuation center shall not
4 be at risk of isolation. It shall be located at a safe distance from danger areas
5 or hazards. The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
6 (LDRRMC) of the LGU concerned shall coordinate with the DENR to utilize the
7 Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) geohazard maps in determining the
8 appropriate location of the evacuation center.

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

10 The following shall be considered in identifying an ideal site for an
11 evacuation center:

- 12 (1) It must be centrally located in the community;
- 13 (2) It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where hazardous
14 materials are used and stored, or high-voltage power lines;
- 15 (3) It must be near a health facility;
- 16 (4) It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides
17 or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
- 18 (5) It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent
19 groups, power plants, factories, and other areas where the occurrence of
20 human-induced disasters are very high;
- 21 (6) Availability of the following in the immediate vicinity:
 - 22 (I) Parking areas for emergency and other vehicles;
 - 23 (II) Allocated area for additional portable toilets;
 - 24 (III) Storage tanks for potable and non-potable water; and
 - 25 (IV) Safe shelter for livestock.

1 **(b) Structural and Building Capacity** – The evacuation centers shall be
2 constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at
3 least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at
4 least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy
5 materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541,
6 or shall be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

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

9 The evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

10 (1) The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the
11 reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;

12 (2) The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average flood
13 level in the area where the same shall be built; and

14 (3) The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be
15 designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

16 **(c) Suitability and capacity of premises** – if the building is not primarily built
17 as a shelter or permanent site for use as an evacuation center, considerations
18 should be made on its impact to normal business if its operation as an
19 evacuation center is prolonged or its normal function is taken off for an extended
20 period of time.

21 The number and diversity of evacuees as well as public health and safety
22 concerns shall be considered in the suitability of the premises.

23 It must likewise be able to provide electricity, backup power supply, water,
24 sewerage system, solid waste management, and physical mobility for people
25 with mobility aids.

1 **(d) Amenities and Accessibility** – The evacuation centers shall be well-
2 ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of
3 evacuees. The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 4 (1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- 5 (2) Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with
6 one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
- 7 (3) Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
- 8 (4) Emergency exit doors;
- 9 (5) Eating, kitchen or food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
- 10 (6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 11 (7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for
12 potentially infectious persons;
- 13 (8) Child, women-friendly spaces;
- 14 (9) Prayer rooms;
- 15 (10) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities;
- 16 (11) Laundry area;
- 17 (12) Recreation area;
- 18 (13) Area for management of livestock and domestic animals owned by
19 evacuees; and
- 20 (14) Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

21 **(e) Food safety** – Kitchen and dining facilities shall be able to adequately
22 accommodate the number of people in the evacuation center. Food preparation
23 and storage facilities shall comply with satisfactory standards of the department
24 of health on cleanliness to minimize the potential for contamination and invasion
25 of insects and pests.

1 **SEC. 7. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management**

2 **Council (NDRRMC).** – The NDRRMC shall be the lead implementing agency of this
3 Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the country that (a) are identified as
4 disaster prone; (b) are financially incapable of establishing their own evacuation
5 centers; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

6 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs
7 for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center
8 in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and
9 support services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

10 Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for
11 evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility in
12 times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and
13 management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and
14 meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected populations based on acceptable
15 standards during or immediately after a disaster.

16 The NDRRMC shall be responsible in the monitoring, inspection, and
17 evaluation of identified and constructed evacuation centers in coordination with the
18 LGUs and relevant agencies. The monitoring, inspection and validation shall cover
19 structural integrity, safety against risks and hazards, suitability for use as evacuation
20 centers/camps, floor area, and availability of camp facilities.

21 **SEC. 8. Coordination Among Agencies.** – The NDRRMC shall coordinate
22 with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard
23 to the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation
24 centers that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

1 Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall
2 provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient
3 implementation of this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
5 the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST,
6 League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and
7 other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules
8 and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

9 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
10 implementation of the construction of evacuation centers shall be charged against the
11 current year's appropriation of the Department of Public Works and Highways provided
12 for this purpose. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the construction of evacuation
13 centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU
14 concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation and management
15 of evacuation center.

16 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid
17 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected
18 shall remain valid and subsisting.

19 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
20 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
21 to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended
22 accordingly.

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

Approved,