



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5150**



Introduced by Honorable Evelina G. Escudero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the construction of a multi-purpose building in a strategic area in every barangay to serve as the evacuation center during a calamity or disaster.

The Philippines is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire where two major tectonic plates meet. The Pacific Ring of Fire is an arc of intense seismic and volcanic activity stretching from New Zealand, along the eastern edge of Asia, across the Aleutian Islands of Alaska and along the coast of North and South America. This is why our country is vulnerable to disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other natural calamities that cause havoc to our lives and properties.

During a state of calamity, evacuation is one of the pre-disaster responses that assure the safety and security of our people. Usually, schools, covered courts and even churches are used as evacuation centers. The congestion in these evacuation centers put at risk our children, pregnant women, senior citizens and the disabled who are most vulnerable in times of disaster. Moreover, these evacuation centers may even be located in unsafe areas or are not structurally designed to withstand typhoons and strong earthquakes or their aftershocks.

With this proposed bill, each barangay will have a multi-purpose building that will be used as the evacuation center in times of calamity or disaster. Barangays that are within disaster prone areas shall be given highest priority in the construction of the multi-purpose building. The building may also be used for other public purposes during ordinary times. The barangay council will issue rules and regulations for the use of the multi-purpose building.

With disasters now being a permanent fixture of the Filipino way of life, temporary stop-gap measures such as the designation of public schools as evacuation centers must be minimized, if not completely eradicated. This practice causes disruption in the schedule and education of our school children and even put many of the evacuees in dire danger. Instead a sturdy structurally-sound permanent building that can be used as temporary safe haven for evacuation in times of disaster must be established in strategic areas in every barangay.

Hence, approval of this bill is highly recommended.


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO



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AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE
BUILDING IN A STRATEGIC AREA IN EVERY BARANGAY TO
SERVE AS THE EVACUATION CENTER DURING CALAMITY OR
DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of
the State to uphold the people's right to life and property by addressing the
cause of vulnerabilities to disasters and strengthening the institutional capacity
or resilience of local communities to disasters.

Towards this end, the State shall provide for the construction of a multi-
purpose building in every barangay to serve as the evacuation center to
guarantee the safety and well-being of the victims of natural or man-made
disasters, particularly children, pregnant women, senior citizens and the
disabled.

SEC. 2. *Construction of the Multi-Purpose Building.* – There shall be
constructed a multi-purpose building in a strategic area in every barangay of the
country that will serve as the evacuation center in times of calamities.

1 SEC. 3. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Public Works and
2 Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of the multi-purpose
3 building in every barangay: *Provided*, That any such construction is based on a
4 program prepared by the DPWH in coordination with the municipality or city
5 council: *Provided, further*, That the multi-purpose building shall be located in a
6 strategic area in every barangay. The municipal or city mayor and the barangay
7 captain shall be furnished with pertinent documents, data and information
8 before any construction can be commenced.

9 SEC. 4. *Construction Priority.* – The DPWH shall give priority to
10 barangays whose residents volunteer labor services in the construction thereof
11 and for this purpose, the DPWH shall issue guidelines and receive applications
12 therefor. Barangays that are located in disaster prone areas shall be given the
13 highest priority in the construction of the multi-purpose building.

14 SEC. 5. *Use of the Multi-Purpose Building.* – The multi-purpose
15 building shall be used as evacuation center in times of disasters or calamities.
16 The multi-purpose building may also be used for other short-term purposes as
17 the barangay council may decide. It is hereby authorized to issue such rules and
18 regulations for the use of the multi-purpose building to the end that an equitable
19 and proportionate use may be made available among barangay residents or
20 associations and to impose such minimal charges as may be necessary for the
21 maintenance and repair of the building.

1 SEC. 6. *Submission of Reports.* – Within ninety (90) days after the
2 approval of this Act, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways shall submit
3 progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 7. *Operation and Management.* – The operation and management
5 of the multi-purpose building shall be under the office of the municipal or city
6 mayor in coordination with the barangay council.

7 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation
8 of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Public
9 Works and Highways under the current General Appropriations Act.
10 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the repair and maintenance of the
11 multi-purpose building shall be included in the annual budget of the barangay
12 where it is located.

13 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15 Approved,