

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5300



Introduced by REP. BEN P. EVARDONE
Lone District, Eastern Samar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recent typhoon 'Ruby' (international name, 'Hagupit') concretely shows that natural hazards do not necessarily bring about disaster. Adequate preparation has certainly saved millions of lives in the central Philippines, prompting Malacañang to describe our present state (of mind) as under "a culture of preparedness".

However, typhoon 'Ruby' has also exposed the need for more typhoon-proof evacuation centers, and the immediateness of providing the same.

This bill mandates the establishment of evacuation centers in every city and municipality nationwide, and in a cluster of 10 barangays or for every 5,000 evacuees, with sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and areas suitable for food preparation and storage, breastfeeding and lactation, and convenient to persons with disabilities.

Also, this bill mandates that each evacuation center be provided sufficient emergency supplies and equipment, such as emergency water and power supply, medical emergency equipment and supplies, emergency communications equipment (e.g. satellite phones), emergency rescue and response equipment.

Under the bill, the DPWH, DOST, DENR, and concerned agencies are mandated to come up with a calamity-proof, especially caused by typhoons, infrastructural design and related requirements for such evacuation center.

To be sure, the establishment of such 'natural hazards'-resilient evacuation centers will address the health and sanitation issues currently experienced in present evacuation sites due to the lack of sufficient water and toilet facilities. Also, it will avoid the use of classrooms as evacuation sites and thereby ensure the immediate return to normalcy of classroom education of students.

More importantly, the establishment of such evacuation centers in strategic areas will hasten the delivery of social services such as the delivery of relief goods, and the maintenance of peace and order.

On this score, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BEN P. EVARDONE

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1 AN ACT
2 MANDATING THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF EVACUATION
3 CENTERS IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES NATIONWIDE, AND IN
4 STRATEGIC AREAS THEREIN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
5 OTHER PURPOSES
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
8 *assembled:*
9

10 **SECTION 1. Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to promote and ensure the safety,
11 health and well-being of its people at all times. Toward this end, it shall establish and upgrade
12 its facilities and capabilities designed for this purpose.
13

14 **SECTION 2.** There shall be established typhoon-, earthquake- and other natural
15 hazards resilient evacuation centers in every city and municipality nationwide.
16

17 Additional evacuation center shall be established in a strategically safe area to
18 accommodate constituents of a cluster of ten (10) barangays and/or for every five thousand
19 (5,000) evacuees.
20

21 In no case shall these requirements be construed as prohibiting the establishment of
22 evacuation centers for a cluster of less than ten (10) barangays or less than five thousand
23 (5,000) evacuees.
24

25 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department
26 of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources
27 (DENR), in coordination with appropriate national government agencies and concerned local

1 government units, shall be the lead agency in ensuring the formulation, planning and
2 implementation of infrastructural design and related requirements for such evacuation center.

3
4 The infrastructural design shall provide sufficient water supply, sanitation and
5 hygiene (WASH) facilities, including areas suitable and convenient for breastfeeding and
6 lactation, persons with disabilities, food storage and preparation, storage of disaster/calamity
7 rescue equipment, medical emergency provisions, and electricity generators.

8
9 Each evacuation center shall be provided sufficient emergency supplies and
10 equipment, such as water and power supply, medical emergency equipment and supplies,
11 emergency communications equipment, emergency rescue and response equipment.

12
13 **SECTION 4.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
14 included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and
15 thereafter, without prejudice to a supplemental Appropriations Act enacted for this purpose.

16
17 **SECTION 5.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and
18 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby modified accordingly.

19
20 **SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect immediately after its complete publication in
21 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation
22 whichever comes earlier.

23
24 *Approved*