

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **7218**



Introduced by Representative Vini Nola A. Ortega

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, our country experiences an approximate of ten (10) destructive tropical typhoons according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council. Last December 2017, the southern parts of our country were devastated by Typhoon Vinta, leaving at least one hundred (100) persons dead.

As a country prone to natural disasters, it is of paramount importance that our communities are well equipped when the need arises. Thus, this bill seeks to establish all existing and future government funded or owned covered basketball courts to be disaster-proof by providing additional facilities therein and ensuring that its structural capacity could withstand natural disasters.

It shall be utilized as the primary evacuation center in municipalities and cities where there are no existing evacuation centers or as additional or alternative evacuation centers in municipalities and cities with existing evacuation centers duly designated by the local disaster risk reduction management council.

Furthermore, this bill is the solution in cities and municipalities where there are not enough proper, humane, and safe evacuation centers. The same is also the answer to prevent the disruption of classes due to the usage of classrooms as alternative evacuation centers in cities and municipalities in times of calamity or disaster.


VINI NOLA A. ORTEGA
ABONO Party-list

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ALL GOVERNMENT OWNED OR FUNDED BASKETBALL COURTS TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE EVACUATION CENTERS DURING CALAMITY OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Alternative Evacuation Centers Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is the policy of the State to uphold the people’s right to life and property. Towards this end, the State shall establish all government funded or owned basketball courts as alternative evacuation centers, thus, appropriating funds for its structural enhancement and construction of additional facilities to function as such.

SECTION 3. *Alternative Evacuation Centers* – All government owned or funded basketball courts shall be utilized as alternative evacuation centers in every cities and municipalities. *Provided*, the said basketball courts shall undergo structural enhancement to ensure the safety of all evacuees. *Provided further*, additional facilities shall be constructed to cater the needs of the evacuees.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agency* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall lead in the structural enhancement of all government owned or funded basketball courts as well as the construction of additional facilities. The National

Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) shall supervise the overall implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Requirements* – The DPWH shall undertake the following structural enhancement and construction of additional facilities on all basketball courts covered in this Act:

- a) *Structural Enhancement*: The basketball court, after enhancement, shall be able to withstand a super typhoon with wind speed of at least three hundred (220) kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least 7.2 magnitude.
- b) *Additional Facilities*: The Department of Public Works and Highways shall also construct the following facilities which would cater to the needs of the evacuees in times of disaster or calamity:
 - i. Food and water storage facility;
 - ii. Food preparation area;
 - iii. Shower and toilet facilities which can accommodate at least 30 persons utilized according to gender;
 - iv. Storage for livestock
 - iv.2. The livestock storage shall be isolated from food and water storage facility and food preparation area to maintain cleanliness of the food and to prevent any contamination that may cause infection to evacuees.
 - v. Medical or isolation room;
 - vi. Power or portable generator facility.

SECTION 6. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council and the Local Government Unit* – The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council or their local units shall provide for the list of qualified basketball courts to undergo structural enhancement and construction of additional facilities based on the safety of the location of the basketball court and the space available for additional construction. *Provided*, that no basketball court shall be included in the list which are located near a fault line, disaster prone area or whenever the location of the basketball court is deemed dangerous by the NDRRMC.

The Local Government Unit shall be responsible in the proper maintenance of the enhanced basketball court as alternative evacuation center. The same shall ensure the availability of the alternative evacuation center at all times especially during the typhoon season. The LGU shall also ensure the availability of potable and non-potable water and power source by means of generators during calamity or disaster.

SECTION 7. *Priority in Enhancement and Construction of Additional Facilities*

– The Department of Public Works and Highways shall prioritize the structural enhancement of basketball courts and construction of additional facilities in cities and municipalities where there are no existing evacuation centers and that the said cities and municipalities are prone to disaster or calamity. The NDRRMC shall provide for the list of cities and municipalities which shall be given priority according to this section.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The funds for the enhancement of basketball courts and construction of additional facilities in accordance with this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – Whenever any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,