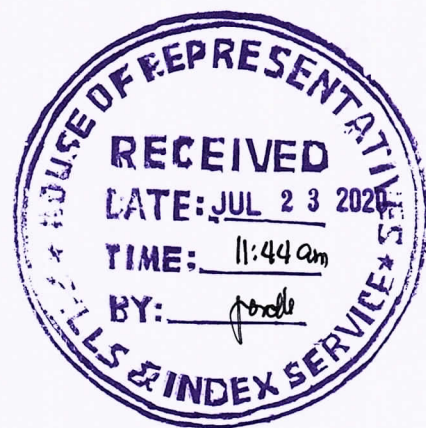


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7164



Introduced by Representative Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish emergency evacuation centers in all provinces in the Philippines.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world affected by almost all kinds of natural calamities and disasters. Calamities such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other severe climate disturbances, including fire, outbreak of illnesses and diseases have taken many lives and caused tremendous damage to properties. During these times, many people are displaced and need to be relocated to evacuation centers.

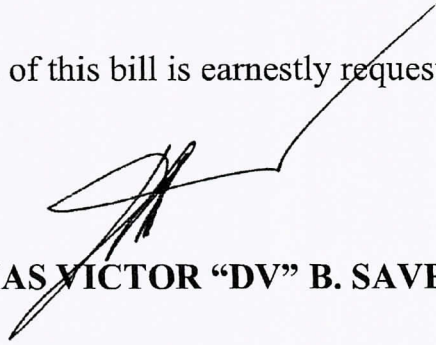
Taking into account the increasing frequency and intensity of calamities occurring in the Philippines, evacuation is often resorted to as a life-saving measure.

It is a common practice that schools, covered courts, and other government buildings are used as evacuation centers during calamities. However, this practice results to interruption of classes and disruption of services of government offices. The lack of basic facilities in schools, covered courts, and other government infrastructures pose great threats to health, safety, and overall wellbeing of the evacuees. The establishment of permanent evacuation centers with the necessary facilities and complete amenities will address these issues.

There is an urgent need for the government to prepare for the eventual occurrences of these natural calamities and man-made disasters. The construction of emergency evacuation center that is durable, safe, properly-designed, and suitable to the needs of the evacuees and prospective users must be established. If not being used as temporary shelter, these emergency evacuation centers may be used as learning centers for educational purposes. Provincial governments are

directed to prioritize and invest in establishing permanent emergency evacuation centers to serve as temporary shelter for individual and displaced families in times of calamities and disasters.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DEOGRACIAS VICTOR "DV" B. SAVELLANO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7164

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY EVACUATION CENTERS IN ALL PROVINCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Emergency Evacuation Center Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the life and property of the people, and promote the general welfare. The State recognizes the vulnerability of the Philippines to all kinds of natural calamities and disasters. Calamities such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other severe climate disturbances, including fire, outbreak of illnesses and diseases have taken many lives and caused damage to properties. Towards this end, the State shall construct a durable, safe, properly-designed, and fully-equipped emergency evacuation center in all provinces to serve as temporary shelter for individuals and displaced families in times of calamities and disasters.

SEC. 3. **Establishment of Emergency Evacuation Center.** – Emergency evacuation centers shall be established in all provinces to serve as immediate and temporary shelters that guarantee the safety and wellbeing of the people who are evacuated or displaced from their homes due to natural calamities and

disasters. If not being used as temporary shelters of the evacuees, emergency evacuation centers may be utilized as learning center for disaster trainings, calamity drills, and other disaster preparedness and prevention activities.

SEC. 4. ***Facilities and Amenities*** – Emergency evacuation centers must have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. It must have the following amenities and facilities:

- (a) Sleeping quarters;
- (b) Separate bathing facilities and toilet cubicles for males and females, with a facility-to-user ratio of 1-20 persons;
- (c) Breastfeeding areas or lactation stations;
- (d) Wheelchair ramps and handrails for elderly and people with disabilities;
- (e) Centralized kitchen or areas for food preparation with adequate ventilation;
- (f) Eating or dining areas;
- (g) Fire alarm system and emergency exit doors;
- (h) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- (i) Health care areas including an isolation or quarantine area for potentially infectious people;
- (j) Storage room for supplies;
- (k) Generators and fuel;
- (l) Laundry and drying areas;
- (m) Pet and livestock holding areas;
- (n) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities;
- (o) Recreation areas and child-friendly space that may be used as playground;
- (p) Command center with conference room for government officials and agencies; and

1 (q) Other facilities necessary in an evacuation center.

2 SEC. 5. ***Location of Emergency Evacuation Center.*** – The emergency
3 evacuation center shall be located on a stable and safe area of the province, not
4 susceptible to landslides, flooding, storm surges, and other hydrological and
5 meteorological hazards. Site selection must be based on the most current risk
6 assessments using geo-hazard maps produced by the Department of
7 Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the
8 Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical
9 and Astronomical Services Administration and the Philippine Institute of
10 Volcanology and Seismology.

11 The location of the emergency evacuation center shall be based on the
12 following conditions or considerations:

13 (a) Must be strategically located to enable immediate access to basic
14 goods, services, and utilities;

15 (b) Near to any health facilities;

16 (c) Far from military base camps, camps of insurgency groups, high
17 voltage power plants, and other areas where occurrence of human induced
18 disasters are very high; and

19 (d) Must allow for year-round access to and from the evacuation
20 centers by means of vehicular transportation specially before, during and after a
21 hazard event.

22 SEC. 6. ***Structural and Building Capacity.*** – The emergency evacuation
23 center must be designed and constructed in compliance with Republic Act No.
24 6541, as amended, otherwise known as the “*National Building Code of the*
25 *Philippines*,” and can withstand super typhoons or wind speed of at least three
26 hundred (300) kilometers per hour, or storm surge level of at least ten (10)
27 meters, and moderate seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude on the Richter

Scale. Emergency evacuation centers must be sufficiently ventilated in such a way that fresh air and natural lights are ensured during operation.

SEC. 7. ***Responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).*** – The DPWH shall be responsible for formulating the design and specifications of the emergency evacuation centers based on existing laws, issuances, rules and regulations, and in compliance with the National Building Code. The design and specification must be based on the needs of the evacuees and shall consider the weather pattern, topographical features, and climate condition of the province where the emergency evacuation center is located. The alternative uses of emergency evacuation centers shall be taken into account by the DPWH. It shall review and revise the design and specification of the evacuation centers every three (3) years.

SEC. 8. ***Management of Emergency Evacuation Center.*** – The provincial government of the province where the evacuation center is located shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of the emergency evacuation center.

The provincial government shall, in consultation with the Department of Education, promulgate guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective operation, supervision, and management of the emergency evacuation centers when being used as learning centers for educational purposes.

The amount necessary for the operation, management and supervision of the emergency evacuation centers shall be charged to the funds of Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

SEC. 9. ***Mandatory Audit.*** – The provincial engineer or building officials, shall conduct a mandatory audit of the emergency evacuations centers at least once a year or immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster to ensure the structural integrity and safety of the evacuees.

1 SEC. 10. ***Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management***
2 ***Council (NDRRMC).*** – The NDRRMC shall be the lead agency in overseeing
3 the implementation of this Act. It shall provide technical assistance and support
4 services to the provincial government in the management and maintenance of
5 emergency evacuation centers.

6 SEC.11. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation
7 of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of the NDRRMC.
8 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation
9 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 SEC. 12. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within thirty (30) days
11 from the effectivity of this Act, the chairperson of the National Disaster Risk
12 Reduction Management Council shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the
13 Interior and Local Government, Secretary of Public Works and Highways and
14 Secretary of Education, issue the rules and regulations for the effective
15 implementation of this Act.

16 SEC. 13. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
17 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the
18 provisions of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified
19 accordingly.

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

22 Approved,