

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7906

Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines ranked third in the 2018 World Risk Report as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world with an index value of 25.14%.¹ At least 60% of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards and 74% of the population is susceptible to their dire impacts.² We frequently suffer from natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic activities, and rising sea levels due to our geographical location.

In the occurrence of these hazardous circumstances, the Filipinos, especially the poor and the marginalized sectors of society suffer tremendously. Most often, they are instructed to stay in congested classrooms and basketball courts during times of calamities without having access to proper facilities. Hence, there is a need to establish proper and well-equipped evacuation centers that would guarantee the safety and needs of the populace during calamities.

¹World Economic Forum. The Global Risks Report 2018, 13th Edition. Information retrieved from http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GRR18_Report.pdf

²United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines. Status Report 2019. Information retrieved from https://www.unisdr.org/files/68265_682308philippinesdrmsstatusreport.pdf

This proposed measure seeks to establish mandatory evacuation centers strategically placed in all cities, provinces, and municipalities throughout the country. It shall address the vulnerability of our country by providing shelters to Filipinos in times of natural calamities as well as man-made disasters. Further, this raises our national preparedness against all types of disasters.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTER IN ALL CITIES,
PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.*— This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Evacuation and
2 Quarantine Center Act of 2020".

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*— It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 protect the people's right to life and property that is rooted and embedded in our
6 Constitution, and to promote their general welfare. It is for this reason that the
7 establishment of an evacuation center shall be undertaken in all cities, provinces and
8 municipalities to address the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate
9 change and other human-made disasters. This is also to strengthen the country's
10 institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities to adhere and
11 adopt the universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

1 Sec. 3. *Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers.*— There shall be an
2 established evacuation center in every city, province and municipality throughout the
3 country which shall provide basic needs and assistance to all evacuees, and shall
4 serve as their temporary shelter that will guarantee the safety and well-being of all
5 who have become victims of natural calamities or any other hazards, emergency and
6 events such typhoons, floods, fires, storm surges, weather disturbances and
7 outbreak of illnesses/diseases that may cause imminent danger to their life and
8 property.

9
10 Sec. 4. *Evacuation Center Requirements.*— The following shall be the
11 minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under
12 this Act:

13 (a) *Location/Designation* – Each location for every evacuation center shall be
14 determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
15 in close coordination with the LGUs concerned.

16
17 The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- 18 (1) It must be centrally located in the community;
19 (2) It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where
20 hazardous materials are used and/or stored, or high-voltage power
21 lines;
22 (3) It must be near a health facility;
23 (4) It must be located on geotechnical stable land to avoid risk of
24 landslides and/or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands;
25 (5) It must not be located near military base camps, camps of insurgent
26 groups, power plants, factories and other areas where the occurrence
27 of human-induced disasters are very high.

28
29 (b) *Structural/Building Capacity* – The evacuation centers shall be constructed
30 and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three
31 hundred (300) kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least 8.0
32 magnitude. Evacuation centers should be calamity-resilient, be built with

1 sturdy materials, and be built in accordance with the specifications of Republic
2 Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the
3 Philippines" and should be at par with the standards set by the International
4 Building Code.

5
6 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be in charge of
7 the construction of evacuation centers and formulating the building
8 specifications therefor based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines
9 set by the DPWH.

10
11 The DPWH shall also ensure that the construction of such evacuation centers
12 is in accordance with the abovementioned requirements during its
13 construction phase.

14
15 The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed.
16 The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed
17 and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three years.

18
19 The structural capacity should at least meet the following parameters:

- 20 (1) The structure must be elevated in such manner that it will withstand
21 likely impact from a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10)
22 meters;
23 (2) The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average
24 flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
25 (3) The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and
26 designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

27
28 (c) *Amenities and Accessibility of the Evacuation Center* – The evacuation centers
29 shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large
30 number of evacuees. The centers shall have the following minimum
31 amenities:

- 32 (1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;

- (2) Separate showers and toilet facilities designated for males and females with a facility-to-user ratio of 1:10 persons;
- (3) Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
- (4) Lactation stations for nursing mothers;
- (5) Provisions for emergency/exit doors;
- (6) Food preparation areas which are provided with adequate ventilation;
- (7) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- (8) Health care areas which shall include an isolation and/or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
- (9) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- (10) Other facilities prescribed in DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepEd Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2013, entitled "Guidelines on Evacuation Center and Management."

Sec. 5. Operations and Management of the Evacuation Center.— The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision and management of evacuation centers established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on the proper use and maintenance of the evacuation centers.

The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be conducted by Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer and/or the building official at least once every year and immediately after the occurrence of a hazard or disaster event.

Sec. 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.— The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), or its successor, shall be the primary lead agency which shall oversee the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 7. Appropriations.— The amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of

1 the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amount
2 necessary for the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be
3 included in the list of programs as part of annual budget in the General
4 Appropriations Act.

5
6 The appropriations necessary for the operation and management of the
7 evacuation centers shall be charged against the funds of the Local Disaster Risk
8 Reduction & Management Council (LDRRMC), or its successor.

9
10 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— Within ninety (90) days after
11 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Local Interior and Local Government
12 (DILG) and the DPWH, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies
13 concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
14 objectives of this Act.

15
16 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.*— If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
18 force and effect.

19
20 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.*— All laws, decrees, executive orders, or parts
21 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
22 modified accordingly.

23
24 *Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause.*— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
25 its publication in the Official Gazette or in any national newspaper of general
26 circulation.

Approved,