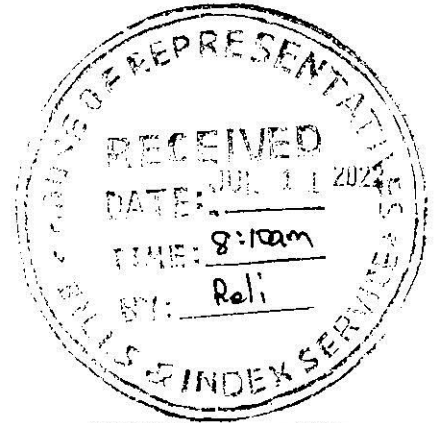


Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1714



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Introduced by **Rep. Anthony R.T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Geographically, the Philippines belong to the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire. The Pacific Ring of Fire is an area in the world where earthquakes and volcanic activities abound. The Philippines is also often-visited by typhoons and other weather disturbances, as our country is positioned at the front of the Pacific Ocean. These facts put the lives and property of Filipinos at risk from destructive acts of nature. As such, there is a need for infrastructure that will protect our countrymen from great damage.

This representation seeks to require the construction of strong evacuation centers in all local government units. In this manner, Filipinos can have a safe haven in times of extreme weather or other natural phenomena, including man-made disasters, that can cause great damage and destruction to our countrymen.

The Philippines should adopt a hard stance on the people's right to life and property by also protecting Filipinos from calamities. The establishment of evacuation centers at all levels of local government units will strengthen the country's institutional capacity for disaster, risk, and resilience management even in the grassroots level.

As the old adage goes, "*an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.*"

Approval of the bill herein is earnestly being sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Golez Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON. ANTHONY R.T. GOLEZ JR. MD, MBAH  
*Malasakit at Bayanihan Party List*

Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTERS  
IN ALL CITIES, PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1. Title of the Act.** – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2022.”

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

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

**Section 4. Evacuation Center Requirements.** – The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

*A. Location/Designation* – each location for every evacuation center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in close coordination with the LGUs concerned. The location shall be determined based on the following criteria:

- 1) It must be centrally located in the community;

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

B. *Structural/Building Capacity* – The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred (300) kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. Evacuation centers should be calamity-resilient, be built with sturdy materials, and be built in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines” and should be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

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

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

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

The structural capacity should at least meet the following parameters:

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

C. *Amenities and Accessibility of the Evacuation Center* – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees. The centers shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;

- 2) Separate Shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with a facility-to-user ratio of 1:20 persons;
- 3) Amenities to enable access thereto by and accommodation of the disabled;
- 4) Provisions for emergency/exit doors;
- 5) Food preparation areas which are provided with adequate ventilation;
- 6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation and/or quarantine area for potentially infectious persons;
- 8) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- 9) Other facilities prescribed in DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepED Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 Series of 2013, entitled "Guidelines on Evacuation Center and Management."

**Section 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.

**Section 6. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.*** – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), shall be the primary lead agency which shall oversee the implementation of this act.

**Section 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amounts necessary for the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers shall be included in the list of programs as part of annual budget in the General Appropriations Act.

The appropriations necessary for the operation and management of the evacuation centers shall be charged against the funds of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council (LDRRMC).

**Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety days (90) after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Local Interior and Local Government (DILG), DPWH, and OCD, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

**Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**Section 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**