

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3466



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

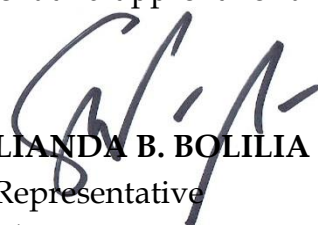
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the past decades, schools have been used to house hundreds or thousands of evacuees during disasters and calamities. These conditions have disrupted education, caused damage to educational facilities and equipment, and displaced students from learning. Schools have insufficient contingency plans on camp management and preparedness to act as evacuation centers. Thus, public schools should not be used as evacuation centers in order to ensure the continuity of education even in the midst of disasters and calamities.

The measure aims to establish standard based evacuation centers in all cities and municipalities that will provide a more permanent solution as opposed to using public schools to serve as temporary shelter of victims of disasters and calamities. Such structure should withstand the impacts of disaster, reduce social vulnerability for certain groups, meet certain safety standards, ensure reliable water supply and uninterrupted power supply, and set up facilities for sanitation and hygiene.

During the 18th Congress, I filed HB7506 that aimed to do the above. It was exhaustively discussed in the committee level along with the other similar measures and later substituted as HB8990. It was passed on Third Reading and transmitted to the Senate.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LIANDA B. BOLILIA
Representative
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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the
2 constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the
3 promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and
4 maintain a fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to
5 environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines
6 to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or
7 human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the
8 environment.

9
10 **SECTION 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers.** – There shall be established an
11 evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide
12 immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or
13 displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm
14 surges, drought and other severe climate disturbances, as well as fire, and the
15 outbreak of illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

16
17 Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be
18 upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers could be designated as such in
19 compliance with the local government unit concerned.

20
21 **SECTION 3. Requirements.** – The following shall be the minimum requirements for
22 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 stored, or high-voltage power lines;
3. It must be near a health facility;
4. It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of landslides 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 and Building Capacity** - The evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the 'National Building Code of the Philippines' or shall 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, including the formulation of building specifications and shall ensure that the same are based on standards, issuances, and other guidelines set by the DPWH, and are compliant with the provisions of the National Building Code. 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 (3) years.

The evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

1. The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
2. 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
3. The structure shall not be less than nine (9) meters in height and shall be designed in accordance with earthquake load standards.

1 c. ***Amenities and Accessibility.*** – The evacuation centers shall be well-
2 ventilated and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees.

3
4 The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities:

- 5 1. Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- 6 2. Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females, with
7 one (1) facility for every twenty (20) persons;
- 8 3. Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
- 9 4. Emergency exit doors;
- 10 5. Food preparation areas with adequate ventilation;
- 11 6. Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 12 7. Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for
13 potentially infectious persons;
- 14 8. Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities; and
- 15 9. Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

16
17 **SECTION 4. *Operation and Management.*** – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily
18 responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers
19 established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and
20 regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

21
22 The local *Sanggunian* shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use
23 and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall
24 prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such:
25 *Provided*, That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or
26 purposes that involve the use of collapsible amenities ~~only~~ and those that shall not in
27 any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or impede the use
28 thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided further*, That the LGU shall impose such
29 penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized activities when
30 the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during or as a result of
31 such activities.

32
33 The mandatory audit of infrastructures used as evacuation centers shall be
34 conducted by the City or Municipality at least once every year and immediately after
35 the occurrence of a hazard or disaster.

36
37 **SECTION 5. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council***
38 **(NDRRMC).** – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
39 (NDRRMC) shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act. It shall give utmost
40 priority to those areas of the country that (a) are identified as disaster prone; (b) are

1 financially incapable to establish their own evacuation centers; and (c) do not have
2 existing evacuation centers of their own.

3
4 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs
5 for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center in
6 their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support
7 services to these LGUs in the management of the facility.

8
9 Local chief executives concerned shall evaluate and provide suitable sites for
10 evacuation centers to determine their geographical stability, and public accessibility
11 in times of disasters. They shall provide for the maintenance, operation, and
12 management of the facility taking into consideration the goal of life preservation and
13 meeting the basic subsistence needs of affected population based on acceptable
14 standards during or immediately after a disaster.

15
16 **SECTION 6. *Coordination Among Agencies.*** – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with
17 the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard to the
18 design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers
19 that will be constructed pursuant to this Act.

20
21 Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall
22 provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient
23 implementation of this Act.

24
25 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
26 effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST,
27 League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and
28 other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules
29 and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

30
31 **SECTION 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
32 to fund the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose gyms to serve as
33 evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget provided for this purpose
34 under the DPWH. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of
35 multipurpose gyms as evacuation centers shall be included in the annual General
36 Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide the continued maintenance,
37 operation and management of the facility.

38
39 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
40 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected
41 shall remain valid and subsisting.

1
2 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
3 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or
4 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended
5 accordingly.

6
7 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9
10 *Approved*