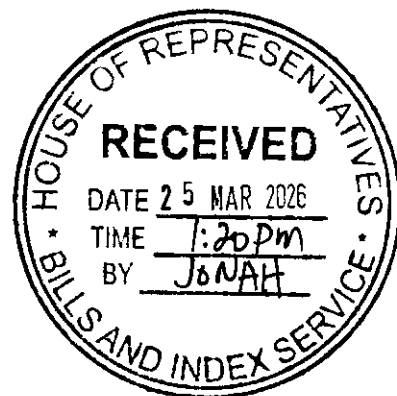




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 8772**



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Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**  
*1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga City*

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE**  
**CONSTRUCTION OF DISASTER-RESILIENT EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY**  
**CITY NATIONWIDE, IDENTIFYING THE MOST DISASTER-PRONE AREAS OF THE**  
**COUNTRY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is among the world's most disaster-prone countries. Its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt subjects it to frequent typhoons, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and storm surges. Each year, millions of Filipinos are at risk.

During disasters, local government units (LGUs) use public schools, gymnasiums, and other facilities as temporary evacuation centers. These structures provide immediate refuge but are not designed for long-term use. They often lack sanitation, ventilation, privacy, and structural resilience. Prolonged use of schools as evacuation centers disrupts education and delays the resumption of classes.

Studies conducted by the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department estimate that constructing dedicated evacuation centers across cities and municipalities nationwide would require approximately ₱33.4 billion, or roughly ₱64.8 million per facility based on Department of Public Works and Highways design standards.

The cost may seem high, but disaster-resilient infrastructure creates long-term savings. Experts say each dollar invested can save up to four dollars in reconstruction and up to fifteen in post-disaster recovery.

Continuing to use temporary shelters means recurring costs for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. Evacuees face unsafe, overcrowded conditions that raise disease risk, reduce privacy and security, and affect vulnerable groups such as children, women, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Permanent disaster-resilient evacuation centers in disaster-prone communities will protect displaced people during emergencies. These facilities can also provide space for disaster preparedness training, relief distribution, and community activities when not in use for emergencies.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the construction of disaster-resilient evacuation centers in every city nationwide, establish a National Evacuation Center Master Plan, and mandate compliance with national laws on building safety, accessibility, environmental protection, sanitation, and disaster risk reduction.

By providing safe, accessible, and resilient evacuation infrastructure, the government strengthens disaster preparedness, protects lives, and fosters resilient communities.

I strongly urge the immediate enactment of this measure to protect the lives and well-being of all Filipinos in disaster-prone communities.

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**



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*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 “**National Disaster-Resilient Evacuation Centers Act.**”

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to safeguard the lives, safety, and welfare of the Filipino people by strengthening disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery systems. Toward this end, the State shall ensure the construction and maintenance of safe, structurally sound, accessible, and disaster-resilient evacuation centers in all cities nationwide, particularly in areas identified as highly vulnerable to natural hazards.

**SECTION 3. *Definition.*** - For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

“***Disaster-Resilient Evacuation Centers***” shall refer to a purpose-built facility designed and constructed to withstand natural hazards and capable of providing temporary shelter and essential services to displaced persons during disasters.

“***Disaster-Prone Areas***” shall refer to geographic locations identified through hazard mapping and risk assessment as highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, storm surges, landslides, or volcanic activity.

**SECTION 4. *Identification of Disaster-Prone Areas.*** - The Office of Civil Defense, in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, shall conduct periodic hazard mapping and risk assessments to identify priority disaster-prone areas nationwide.

The results of such assessments shall serve as the basis for prioritizing the construction of evacuation centers under this Act.

**SECTION 5. *Establishment.*** - The national government shall ensure the construction of at least one (1) disaster-resilient evacuation center in every city nationwide, subject to prioritization based on population vulnerability, hazard exposure, and availability of funds.

Cities identified as highly disaster-prone may be allocated additional evacuation centers as deemed necessary.

**SECTION 6. *Standards and Compliance requirements.*** - All evacuation centers constructed under this Act shall comply with national structural, safety, accessibility, and environmental standards. Such facilities shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of the National Building Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree No. 1096) to ensure structural integrity capable of withstanding natural hazards commonly experienced in the country.

Evacuation centers shall likewise incorporate disaster-resilient engineering standards consistent with the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 10121) and climate-adaptive infrastructure principles under the Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9729).

The facilities shall strictly comply with accessibility standards provided under the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (Republic Act No. 7277) and the Accessibility Law (Batas Pambansa Blg. 344), ensuring that evacuation centers are fully accessible to persons with disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups.

All evacuation centers shall likewise conform with fire safety standards under the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008 (Republic Act No. 9514) and health and sanitation requirements under the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines (Presidential Decree No. 856).

In addition, evacuation centers shall incorporate gender-responsive and child-friendly facilities consistent with the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act No. 9710) and the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act (Republic Act No. 7610).

**SECTION 7. *National Evacuation Center Master Plan.*** - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and other relevant agencies, shall formulate a National Evacuation Center Master Plan.

The Master Plan shall include:

1. A nationwide inventory of existing evacuation facilities;
2. Identification of priority disaster-prone communities requiring evacuation infrastructure;
3. Standard architectural and engineering designs for evacuation centers;
4. Multi-hazard-resilient infrastructure guidelines;

5. Financing strategies including national funding, local government allocations, climate financing, and public-private partnerships;
6. A phased implementation schedule for the construction of evacuation centers nationwide.

**SECTION 8. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Local government units may also utilize their Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of evacuation centers.

**SECTION 9. *Operation and Maintenance.*** - The Local government units shall be primarily responsible for the management, operation, and maintenance of evacuation centers within their jurisdictions.

**SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, shall promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations.

**SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**