

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 MAY -9 A8:43

**SENATE**  
S. No. 2143

RECEIVED BY:

---

**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

---

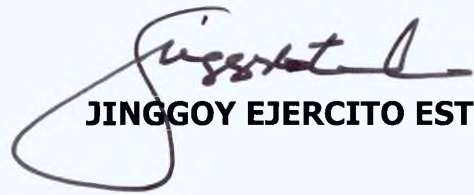
**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND  
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It shall be the policy of the State to establish and maintain a safe, fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, and hazards such as the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors that affect the environment.

The "Evacuation Centers Act" aims to construct and maintain an evacuation center in each city and municipality that is fully functional, safe and equipped. This is to provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to disasters, calamities or other emergency events such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other geotectonic phenomena, as well as fire, the outbreak of illnesses and diseases, and armed conflict, that present imminent danger to life and property.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.




**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



23 MAY -9 A8 :43

**SENATE**  
S. No. 2143

RECEIVED BY: 

---

**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

---

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND  
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Evacuation Centers*  
2 *Act*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the  
4 constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the  
5 promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, shall establish and  
6 maintain a safe, fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation center, responsive to  
7 environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines  
8 to climate change, and hazards such as the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons,  
9 and other natural or human-induced disasters, illnesses, diseases and other factors  
10 that affect the environment. It shall be the continuing policy of the State to ensure  
11 the structural capacity of evacuation centers and to provide the necessary and  
12 appropriate support facilities.

13 Sec. 3. *Establishment of Evacuation Centers.* – There shall be established an  
14 evacuation center in every city and municipality in the country which shall provide  
15 immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or  
16 displaced from their homes due to disasters, calamities or other emergency events

1 such as typhoons, floods, storm surges, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic  
2 eruptions and other geotectonic phenomena, as well as fire, and the outbreak of  
3 illnesses and diseases that present imminent danger to life and property.

4 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is mandated to  
5 construct the evacuation centers, including the formulation of building specifications  
6 and shall ensure that the same are compliant with the provisions of Republic Act No.  
7 6541, otherwise known as "The National Building Code of the Philippines" or other  
8 applicable laws.

9 Existing structures that can meet the minimum requirements or can be  
10 upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers may be designated as such  
11 according to the needs of the local government unit (LGU) concerned.

12 *Sec. 4. Priority in the Establishment of Evacuation Centers.* – The National  
13 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall, in coordination  
14 with local executives of provinces, cities, and municipalities and in consultation with  
15 DOST-PHIVOLCS, DOST-PAGASA, AND DENR-MGB, identify areas to be given the  
16 highest priority in the establishment of new evacuation centers.

17 Upon determination by the NDRRMC and the chief executives of LGUs, the  
18 NDRRMC shall make a priority list of LGUs needing evacuation centers using a  
19 prioritization criteria that takes into account the coping capacity of LGUs, their  
20 susceptibility, exposure and vulnerability to hazards, their readiness in implementing  
21 the construction of evacuation centers, and such other factors determined by  
22 NDRRMC. NDRRMC shall also specify a timeline and annual targets, including  
23 appropriate budgetary requirements, in relation to the establishment of Evacuation  
24 Centers in priority areas and high-risk communities.

25 Priority shall be given to areas of the country that (a) are identified by the  
26 NDRRMC as disaster prone, (b) are financially incapable of establishing their own  
27 evacuation centers and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers constructed by the  
28 National Government.

29 *Sec. 5. Requirements.* – The following shall be the minimum requirements for  
30 every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

- 31 a) *Location Designation* - Each location for every evacuation center shall be  
32 determined by the LGUs, using the latest available hazard assessment tools

1 and with technical assistance from the Department of Environment and  
2 Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
3 as well as the other government agencies principally mandated to mitigate  
4 disasters. The evacuation center shall not be at risk of isolation and shall be  
5 located at a safe distance from danger areas or hazards. The following shall  
6 be considered in identifying an ideal site for an evacuation center:

- 7 1) It must be strategically located in the community;
- 8 2) It must be of a safe distance from large trees, structures where  
9 hazardous materials are used and stored, or high-voltage power lines;
- 10 3) It must be near a health facility;
- 11 4) It must be located on geotechnically stable land to avoid risk of  
12 landslides or exposure to potential landslide of adjacent lands. Also, it  
13 must not be within volcanic and seismic hazard zones;
- 14 5) It must not be located within school premises, near military base camps,  
15 camps of insurgent groups, power plants, factories, and other areas  
16 where the occurrence of human-induced disasters are very high;
- 17 6) Availability of the following in the immediate vicinity;
  - 18 i) Helipad and parking areas for emergency and other vehicles;
  - 19 ii) Allocated area for additional portable toilets;
  - 20 iii) Storage tanks for potable and non-potable water;
  - 21 iv) Storage area for food and non-food items; and
  - 22 v) Safe shelter for livestock.

23 b) *Structural and Building Capacity* — The evacuation centers shall be  
24 constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of  
25 at least three hundred kilometers per hour (300 kph) and seismic activity of  
26 at least 8.0 magnitude. The structure must be calamity-resilient, built with  
27 sturdy materials, and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act  
28 No. 6541, or shall be at par with the standards set by the International  
29 Building Code, Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or An Act to Enhance The  
30 Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Institutions,  
31 Establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and Other Devices,  
32 and other applicable laws and regulations. The DPWH shall assess the

1 quality of the building every year and every time the building is used as an  
2 evacuation center.

3 The evacuation center must at least meet the following parameters:

- 4 1) The structure must be elevated, in such a manner that is safely above  
5 the reach of a high tide storm surge level of at least ten (10) meters;
- 6 2) The structure must be a minimum of one (1) meter above the average  
7 flood level in the area where the same shall be built; and
- 8 3) The structure shall be designed in accordance with the provisions of  
9 Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as The National Building Code  
10 of the Philippines or other applicable law.”

- 11 c) *Suitability and capacity of premises* – If the building is not primarily built as  
12 a shelter or permanent site for use as an evacuation center, considerations  
13 should be made on its impact to normal business if its operation as an  
14 evacuation center is prolonged or its normal function is taken off for an  
15 extended period of time.

16 The number and diversity of evacuees as well as public health and safety  
17 concerns shall be considered in the suitability of the premises.

- 18 d) *Amenities and Accessibility* – The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated  
19 and shall have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees.  
20 The evacuation center shall have the following minimum amenities;

- 21 1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;
- 22 2) Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females,  
23 with one (1) facility for every twenty (10) males and females and one  
24 (1) for every eight (8) persons with disabilities or elderly;
- 25 3) Amenities to enable access thereto by persons with disabilities;
- 26 4) Emergency exit doors;
- 27 5) Dining kitchen or food preparation areas ~~with adequate ventilation~~;
- 28 6) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;
- 29 7) Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for  
30 potentially infectious persons, health station/clinic, breastfeeding room,  
31 mental wellness space/room, interview or counselling room for  
32 psychosocial intervention;

- 1 8) Child, women-friendly recreation area;
- 2 9) Prayer rooms;
- 3 10) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities;
- 4 11) Laundry area;
- 5 12) Area for management of livestock and domestic animals owned by
- 6 evacuees;
- 7 13) Standby power for lighting, operation of medical equipment equipment
- 8 and communication equipment;
- 9 14) Standalone water pumping facilities;
- 10 15) Storage area for food and non-food items; and,
- 11 16) Urban gardens as additional and self-sufficient food sources
- 12 17) Other facilities as may be prescribed by the appropriate authorities.

13 e) *Food safety* – Kitchen and dining facilities shall be able to adequately  
14 accommodate the number of people in the evacuation center. Food  
15 preparation and storage facilities shall comply with satisfactory standards of  
16 the Department of Health (DOH) on cleanliness to minimize the potential  
17 for contamination and invasion of insects and pests.

18 *Sec. 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council*  
19 *(NDRRMC).* - The NDRRMC, through its secretariat, the Office of Civil Defense, shall  
20 be the lead implementing agency of this Act.

21 It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned LGUs  
22 for the maintenance, operation, and management of a permanent evacuation center  
23 in their respective areas of jurisdiction. NDRRMC, together with DSWD, shall provide  
24 technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of the  
25 facility.

26 The NDRRMC shall be responsible for the monitoring, inspection, and evaluation  
27 of identified and constructed evacuation centers in coordination with the LGUs and  
28 relevant agencies. The monitoring, inspection and validation shall cover service  
29 delivery, needs assessment and gaps including structural integrity, safety against risks  
30 and hazards, suitability for use as evacuation centers/camps, floor area, and  
31 availability of camp facilities.

1            *Sec. 7. Coordination Among Agencies.* – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the  
2 DPWH, DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), Department of THE Interior and Local  
3 Government (DILG) and DOST for technical assistance with regard to the design  
4 specifications, facility functionality, cost estimates, and construction details of the  
5 evacuation centers that will be established pursuant to this Act.

6            Concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, when necessary, shall  
7 provide assistance to the NDRRMC to ensure the effective and efficient implementation  
8 of this Act.

9            Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to be exemptions from the minimum  
10 requirements that are set forth by the National Building Code, its implementing rules  
11 and regulations and other reference standards.

12            *Sec. 8. Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily  
13 responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers  
14 established under this Act. They are also hereby authorized to issue rules and  
15 regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

16            The local sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use  
17 and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall  
18 prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center when it is not used as such:  
19 *Provided,* That the evacuation center may only be used for such other activities or  
20 purposes that involve the use of temporary amenities with corresponding provisions  
21 for orderly and rapid clearing within a predetermined short period of time and those  
22 that shall not in any way compromise the serviceability of the evacuation center or  
23 impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs: *Provided, further,* That the LGU shall  
24 impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of authorized  
25 activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or loss during  
26 or as a result of such activities.

27            *Sec. 9. Transitory Provisions.* – When an LGU is included in the priority list of  
28 LGUs which need an evacuation center pursuant to Section of this Act and there is no  
29 available site where the government can construct a new evacuation center, the  
30 NDRRMC may instead consider upgrading and converting existing structures into fully-  
31 equipped and disaster-resilient structures to be used primarily as an evacuation center  
32 and designating all suitable government buildings and spaces such as gymnasiums,



1 multi-purpose halls, covered courts, warehouses, and other similar structures as  
2 established community shelters to comply with the provisions of Section 6 of this Act,  
3 particularly on the requirement on location and structural capacity.

4       *Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from  
5 the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DOST,  
6 League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and  
7 other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules  
8 and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

9       *Sec. 11. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation  
10 of the construction of evacuation centers shall be charged against the current year’s  
11 appropriation of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) provided for  
12 this purpose. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the construction of evacuation  
13 centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned  
14 shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation and management of  
15 evacuation center.

16       *Sec. 12. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid  
17 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected  
18 shall remain valid and subsisting.

19       *Sec. 13. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or  
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*