

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
*First Regular Session*

HOUSE BILL NO. 6170



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Introduced by **Hon. Janice Z. Salimbangon**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING PERMANENT EVACUATION CENTERS IN  
NORTHERN CEBU IN DAANBANTAYAN AND THE ISLANDS OF BANTAYAN,  
MALAPASCUA, KINATARCAN, AND CARNAZA IN CEBU PROVINCE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is a known and irrefutable fact that the current global climate is changing. This change also means the transformation of the typhoons that we are used to into stronger and deadlier typhoons. It is only imperative that we adapt to these changes and take positive steps to at least mitigate the damages of these destructive typhoons. Thus, this bill seeks to establish permanent evacuation centers in the most vulnerable parts of Northern Cebu in Daanbantayan and Bantayan.

In a briefing paper entitled "Global Climate Risk Index 2020: Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events?" published by a German think tank Germanwatch, it ranked the Philippines as the second most affected country for 2020. While it ranked 4<sup>th</sup> as the most affected country in a twenty-year period from 1999-2018. The German think-tank based its study on the frequency of extreme weather phenomena experienced by a country, death toll, losses in properties, and losses per unit GDP.

Naturally, the Philippine Archipelago lies in the typhon belt, just astride the Pacific Ocean, making the country vulnerable to tropical cyclones. In fact, these occurrences have become a principal natural hazard for our country—based on the frequency of occurrence and the scale of intensity. Within the archipelago of the Philippines, most of the storms make their landfall on the Eastern Visayas, Bicol and Ilocos Region, moving from east to the west. Because of this general trend of movement, the northern part of Cebu, which comprises the abovementioned islands, is vulnerable to the typhoon every year.


In fact, three of the deadliest typhoons ever hit the Philippines traversed to Visayas Region, greatly impacting the region. First was when typhoon Uring hit the region in 1991, killing almost 5,081 people. Next was Frank back in 2008, which grazed over the Northern Cebu, that killed 1,371 people on multiple landfalls. Lastly, the most destructive and the strongest ever recorded typhoon in the world, Yolanda or Haiyan. With its winds and gustiness reaching up to 230 km/h, it made landfall on the islands of Daanbantayan and Bantayan, leaving thousands dead and properties destroyed along its path. Just recently, the Northern Cebu and the Central Visayas also experienced the wrath of Typhoon Ursula, leaving an estimated P1

billion infrastructure and agricultural damages. The typhoon also left hundreds of school buildings, dozens of public structures and more than 304,000 homes partially or totally damaged.

Therefore, this measure aims to establish standard-based relief shelter sites that could withstand powerful typhoons, such as typhoon Haiyan, in the most vulnerable municipalities of Daanbantayan and Bantayan in the province of Cebu. This bill addresses the need to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable individual and groups by ensuring them of safe and accessible relief shelters that are within their vicinity while waiting for the storm to pass.

Based on the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

*Approved,*



**JANICE Z. SALIMBANGON**

*4<sup>th</sup> District, Cebu*



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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of State Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. Thus, the state, in recognizing the Philippines as vulnerable to different natural hazards and diseases that may affect the general welfare of the people, shall establish and maintain fully-operational evacuation areas that will sustain the people's humane conditions in times of calamities.

**SECTION 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers.** – There shall be established evacuation centers in the northern Cebu, specifically in the municipalities of Daanbantayan and all in the province of Cebu which shall provide immediate lodging for those who are in clear and present danger brought by emergency events, such as severe weather disturbances, fire, and illnesses.

Evacuation centers shall have, as far as practicable, the following essential facilities:

- (a) a centralized kitchen and laundry areas;
- (b) a clinic
- (c) a stockroom;
- (d) a paging system room with security camera;
- (e) an office for social welfare personnel;
- (f) a generator;
- (g) gender-sensitive areas for women, specifically breastfeeding mothers;
- (h) a counselling area;
- (i) a garbage segregation facility;
- (j) a child friendly space and learning area;
- (k) spaces for people's livestock, poultry and pets;
- (l) stockroom for relief goods;
- (m) storm shelters as may be appropriate and necessary; and
- (n) Other essential facilities as may be determined by the implementing agency

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall oversee formulating the appropriate specifications for evacuation centers and to ensure compliance with these specifications during the construction of evacuation centers. It shall consider all the necessary information, such as the weather pattern affecting the area, the arrangement of natural and physical properties of the area, alternative uses of space when it is not in use, in the construction and design of the evacuation centers to ensure that they can withstand winds reaching up to 300 kph and earthquake with magnitudes reaching up to seven (7) and/or eight (8) in the Richter scale and be reliable in ensuring the safety and human conditions of the victims of natural disasters. The specifications shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three years.

**SECTION 3. *Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).*** – The National Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead agency in implementing this Act.

It shall enter into Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with the concerned local government units (LGUs) of the Municipality of Daanbantayan and the Municipality of Bantayan for the maintenance, operation and management of a permanent evacuation center in their respective areas of jurisdiction. It shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the management of evacuation centers.

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

**SECTION 4. *Coordinating Among Agencies.*** – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the DPWH and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) with regard the design specifications, cost estimates and construction details of evacuation centers that will be constructed under this Act.

Under this section, the local sanggunian shall also disseminate for the use and operation of the evacuation centers under their jurisdiction. The information shall include, but not limited to, the use of the evacuation centers when it is not needed or in times of tranquility. *Provided, however, that* the usage will not hinder or delay the immediate usage of the evacuation centers in time of emergency crises.

**SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – The NDRRMC in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, the local government units of Daanbantayan and Bantayan, other concerned private agencies shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, prepare the implementing rules and regulation necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DPWH with respect to the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers. For this purpose, the DPWH shall include in its program and annual budget the maintenance of evacuation centers established under this Act.

The amount necessary for the operation of the evacuation centers shall be charged to the funds of the LDRRMC.



Thereafter, such sum as may be needed by the concerned agencies for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*