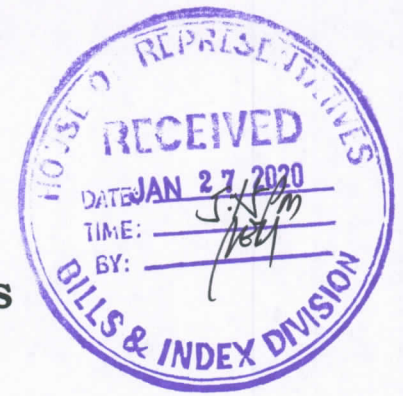


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6074

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world affected by climatic events such as hydro-meteorological hazards like typhoons and floods. The Philippines sit in the typhoon belt making dangerous storms hitting the country. On an average, at least twenty (20) storms or tropical cyclones visits the Philippines or enters the Philippine Area of Responsibility, and almost half of these crossed or made landfalls affecting the lives, properties and crops of the people. It is not only the rain and wind that impacts the lives of the people but also the flooding brought about by the rain.

The vulnerability of the people to these hydro-meteorological hazards is aggravated by the denudation of the forest and shallowing of the inland water systems. During storms, flooding is a common occurrence, destroying homes, properties and livelihood of the people.

Aside from the aforementioned, the Philippines is also part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and affected by seismic activities of the two major tectonic plates, Eurasian and Philippine plates. Recently, Mindanao was devastated by a series of strong earthquakes, ranging from Intensity 5 to 6, destroying properties and dislocating hundreds of families from their homes and livelihood.

The squeezing of several micro-plate by these two convergent plates has also resulted in several volcanoes along the subduction line of these plates. The country has at least 20 active volcanoes, or volcanoes that has erupted in the past hundred years and was recorded by humans. The most recent is the eruption of Taal volcano in Batangas last January 12, 2020, dislocating thousands of families and destroying their homes, crops and livestock. Strong images of the eruption were all over the social media, presenting the power of nature and helplessness of the people. These natural events have always negatively impacted the lives, properties and livelihood of the people situated in these vulnerable areas of the country.

Aside from these natural disasters, there are also man-made disasters affecting the lives and properties of the people. Our society is afflicted by social divisions brought about by internal conflict motivated by ideology and radical fundamentalism like the five (5) decades old communist insurgency and the violent extremism in southern Philippines. Marawi siege and the Zamboanga siege are example of the devastation brought about by violent extremism, dislocating thousands of families.

There is an urgent need for the country to prepare for the eventual occurrences of these natural disasters, aside from man-made disasters, by providing safe spaces for the affected people and vulnerable sectors. Temporary and permanent housing is one of the most humane way of addressing the negative impact of these natural and man-made disasters.


The recent Taal volcano eruption has shown us the need for the construction and provision of evacuation centers that will serve as temporary shelter for the affected families and should also provide for the livestock and other animals.

The use of school buildings as temporary shelter is untenable since this will disrupt the education of the children and some the school buildings are also damaged.

It is imperative for government to construct evacuation centers that is safe, functional and sensitive to the needs and culture of the

communities in the most vulnerable parts of the country, prioritizing those less capable of providing for said construction. This is the intent of this measure.

In view thereof, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ERIC OLIVAREZ

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

*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State, in recognition of the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, the occurrence of severe floods, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruption and other natural or man-made calamities that affect the environment and lives or the people, shall institutionalize the government's effort to establish and maintain fully-equipped and fully-operational evacuation centers and make them responsive to the environmental or climatic events, and culturally sensitive to the locality.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be established an evacuation center in every province, city and

municipality in the country which shall provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes due to emergency events such as typhoons, flood, storm surges, drought, volcanic eruption and other severe climatic events, as well as fire, and the outbreak of illness and diseases that presents imminent danger to life and property.

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 cameras;
- e. An office for social welfare personnel;
- f. A generator;
- g. Gender-sensitive areas for women, specifically breastfeeding mothers;
- h. Separate comfort rooms for male and female;
- i. A counseling area;
- j. A garbage segregation facility;
- k. A child friendly space and learning area;
- l. Spaces for people's livestock, poultry and pets;
- m. Stockroom for relief goods;
- n. Storm shelters as may be appropriate and necessary; and
- o. Other essential facilities as may be determined by the implementing agency.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be responsible in formulating the appropriate specifications for evacuation centers and to ensure compliance with these specifications during the construction of evacuation centers. It shall consider the weather pattern, topographical features, climate, flexible or alternative uses of space when it is not being used as an evacuation area, and unique social condition, in the design and construction of evacuation centers in every province, city and

municipality of the country to ensure that they shall withstand all weather conditions and address the need of disaster victims for humane temporary shelters and the public in general. The specifications shall be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three years.

Sec. 3. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shall be the lead agency in implementing this Act. It shall give utmost priority to those areas of the country that are (a) identified as disaster prone or vulnerable; (b) financially incapable to establish their own evacuation centers; and (c) do not have existing evacuation centers of their own.

It shall enter into memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned local government units (LGUs) 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 base on 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.

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

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

Sec. 5. Operation and Maintenance of Evacuation Centers.

– The operation and management of evacuation center shall be under the auspices of the LGU where the evacuation center is situated while the DPWH shall be charged with the maintenance of evacuation centers that will be constructed under this Act.

The local Sanggunian shall promulgate guidelines and procedures for the use and operation of the evacuation center under their jurisdiction. The guidelines shall include provisions on the use of the evacuation center when it is not being utilized as an evacuation center. Provided, however, that the evacuation center, when it is not being utilized as such, may only be used for those activities or for such purposes that shall not impede upon the need for its instantaneous utilization as evacuation area such as a sports complex, bazaar, or other similar facilities with collapsible amenities.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The NDRRMC in consultation with the DPWH, DOST, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies shall, within sixty (60) days to the effectivity of this Act, prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 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 Appropriation Act.

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

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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,