

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4658



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, it has been a practice to use schools as shelters for thousands of families displaced due to fire, flooding, earthquake and other calamities. Teachers and students have to adjust to class shifts and make-up classes in order to maximize the classrooms that are not used as evacuation sites. At times, makeshift classrooms or tents are set up in open spaces, where students are exposed to noise, distraction and other risks.

According to the Department of Education (DepEd), nearly 18,000 schools served as evacuation centers from 2016 to 2018. The department also laments that it takes time before classes can resume after disasters strike when schools were used as evacuation centers because they have to conduct cleaning and repairs first.

To put an end to disruption of classes during typhoons and other calamities, this bill seeks to mandate the construction of a multipurpose gym, which shall serve as a civic center and as an evacuation center, in every municipality and city throughout the country. The multipurpose gym should be easily accessible to evacuees and to emergency rescue personnel, and should be kept at a safe distance from danger areas or hazards. Construction priority shall be given to third to sixth class municipalities, especially those located in disaster-prone areas.

Under the proposed measure, the multipurpose gym must be able to withstand wind

speeds of at least 155 miles per hour and seismic activity of at least 7.0 magnitude. It must have showers and toilet facilities, must be well-ventilated, and can accommodate large numbers of evacuees. It must be used flexibly for assemblies, sports events, as sleeping quarters for evacuees, and as clinics in times of evacuations.

With the passage of this bill, education of students need not be compromised whenever their classrooms are used as evacuation centers. Thus, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE GYM IN ALL
MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES TO SERVE AS EVACUATION CENTER DURING
TIMES OF CALAMITY OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

*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 "Multipurpose Gym in all Municipalities and Cities Act of 2019".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to protect the people's right to life and property, and to promote their general welfare. Towards this end, the State, in cognizance of the vulnerability of the Philippines to calamities and disasters, shall provide for the construction of a multipurpose gym in every municipality and city to serve primarily as refuge for displaced families in times of calamities and disasters.

SECTION 3. *Construction of a Multipurpose Gym.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of a multipurpose gym in every municipality and city throughout the country which shall serve as a civic center and as an evacuation center for residents during calamities and disasters: Provided, That any such construction is based on a program prepared by DPWH in coordination with a representative of the municipality and city concerned: Provided,

SECTION 6. *Operation and Management of the Multipurpose Gym.* – The operation and management of the multipurpose gym shall be under the office of the municipal or city mayor. For purposes of this Act, LGUs concerned are hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations on the use of the facility and to impose minimal charges as may be necessary for the maintenance and minimal repairs of the facility.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DPWH. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs are authorized to utilize local funds as may be provided in their respective appropriation ordinances for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DPWH shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,