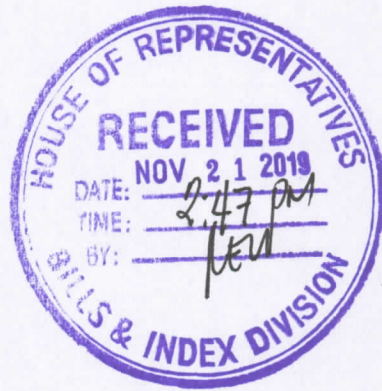


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5595**



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**Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Public schools nationwide have been the designated evacuation centers in the country for years. In fact, in the past typhoons that hit the country, the common practice of most residents has been to seek shelter in the classrooms and covered courts of these schools. Their accessibility to numerous households has proven beneficial in times of natural calamities, armed conflicts, and emergencies.

However, public schools are far from ideal to be utilized as an evacuation center. They lack many facilities to address the needs of displaced families and the structures in place are not built to house the influx of people seeking shelter. Cleanliness can also pose as a concern for various amenities are not available or are not equipped to be used by a large number of people.

This measure proposes the construction of a multi-purpose gym in all municipalities and cities to serve as a solution to alleviate the current condition of evacuation centers during times of disasters and calamities. This bill aims to also make sure that these multi-purpose gyms meet the optimal safety requirements and that their location is accessible to evacuees. It is the hope of this representation to improve the current facilities and services of the government especially during times of disasters and calamities to ensure the safety of the people.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO**



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**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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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".

**SEC. 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.

**SEC. 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, further, That the municipal or city mayor shall be furnished with the pertinent documents, data and information before any construction shall commence: Provided, finally, That Local Government Units (LGUs) may include in their respective local infrastructure program the construction of a multipurpose gym.

**SEC. 4. Construction Priority.** – The DPWH shall give construction priority to third to sixth class municipalities, especially those located in disaster-prone areas. The DPWH shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the LGUs concerned to determine which disaster-prone areas to prioritize in the construction of the facility.

Priority shall also be given to municipalities whose residents shall render volunteer labor services for the construction of the multipurpose gym and for this purpose, the DPWH shall issue the necessary guidelines.

**SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,