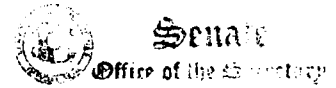


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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23 SEP 26 P1:59

SENATE  
S. B. No. 2451

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(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 193, 940, 1200, 1652, 2085 and 2143)

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*Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation joint with the Committees on Public Works and Finance with Senators Go, Gatchalian, Lapid, Tulfo, Villar (M.), Ejercito Estrada and Revilla Jr. as authors thereof*

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS FOR 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 "*Ligtas Pinoy 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 safe, fully-equipped, and fully-operational evacuation centers responsive to  
7 human-induced disasters, environmental or climatic events, in recognition of the  
8 vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change, hazards and public health crises and  
9 emergencies. It shall be the continuing policy of the State to ensure the structural  
10 capacity and structural integrity of evacuation centers and to provide the necessary  
11 and appropriate support facilities.

1            *Sec. 3. Establishment of Evacuation Centers.* – Evacuation centers shall be  
2 established for every city and municipality in the country which shall provide  
3 immediate and temporary accommodation for evacuees or people displaced from their  
4 homes due to human-induced disasters, calamities or other emergency events such  
5 as typhoons, floods, storm surges, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic  
6 eruptions and similar geotectonic phenomena and related severe climate disturbances,  
7 fire, outbreak of diseases, and others that may present imminent danger to life and  
8 property.

9            *Sec. 4. Minimum Standards.* – The following shall be the minimum standards  
10 for the essential facilities and conditions required in every evacuation center that will  
11 be established under this Act:

12            a) *Location Designation* – The evacuation center shall be strategically located  
13 in the community and shall not be at risk of isolation. It shall be located at  
14 a safe distance from danger areas or hazards. The Local Disaster Risk  
15 Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) of the LGU concerned shall  
16 coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
17 (DENR) to utilize the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) geohazard maps  
18 in determining the appropriate location of the evacuation center.

19            b) *Structural Integrity and Building Capacity* – The evacuation centers shall  
20 be disaster-resilient, built with sturdy materials, constructed and designed  
21 to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least three hundred  
22 kilometers per hour (300 kph), and seismic activity of at least 8.0  
23 magnitude.

1 c) *Facilities* - The evacuation centers shall be well-ventilated and shall have  
2 the capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of evacuees  
3 considering the size of the population in the affected area. The evacuation  
4 center shall have the following minimum facilities:

5 1) Sleeping quarters for the evacuees;

6 2) Separate shower and toilet facilities designated for males and females,  
7 with one (1) facility for every twenty (20) males and females and one  
8 (1) for every eight (8) persons with disabilities or elderly;

9 3) Kitchen or food preparation and dining areas;

10 4) Trash and waste segregation and collection areas;

11 5) Health care areas which shall include an isolation or quarantine area for  
12 potentially infectious persons, health station/clinic, breastfeeding room,  
13 mental wellness space, counseling room;

14 6) Recreation Area;

15 7) Women and child-friendly spaces;

16 8) Rainwater harvesting and collection facilities;

17 9) Standby power for lighting, operation of medical and communication  
18 equipment;

19 10) Powerhouse and standalone water pumping facilities; and

20 11) Storage area for food and non-food items.

21 d) *Food safety* – Kitchen and dining facilities shall be able to adequately  
22 accommodate the number of people in the evacuation center. Food  
23 preparation and storage facilities shall comply with sanitation standards of

1 the Department of Health (DOH) to minimize the potential for contamination  
2 and invasion of insects and pests.

3 *Sec. 5. Lead Implementing Agency.* – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
4 Management Council (NDRRMC), through its secretariat, the Office of Civil Defense,  
5 shall be the lead implementing agency of this Act.

6 The NDRRMC shall develop a menu of minimum conceptual design standards  
7 for evacuation centers which will consider the following factors: (1) available lot sizes  
8 in the LGUs; (2) physical features of a site such as but not limited to climate and  
9 topography; (3) social attributes of an area such as culture and history; and (4)  
10 Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases (EREID).

11 The NDRRMC, in coordination with the LGUs and relevant agencies, shall  
12 oversee and evaluate identified and constructed evacuation centers, which shall cover  
13 assessment of key aspects, such as but not limited to structural integrity, risk and  
14 hazard safety, floor area, suitability for intended use, service delivery, availability of  
15 camp facilities, and identification of any existing needs or gaps. It shall also conduct  
16 annual inspections to ensure the continuous improvement and effectiveness of these  
17 facilities.

18 *Sec. 6. Role of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)*– The DPWH  
19 shall be the agency tasked with the construction of the evacuation centers under this  
20 Act. It shall ensure that the structures comply with the provisions of Republic Act No.  
21 6541, otherwise known as “The National Building Code of the Philippines,” and other  
22 applicable laws.

23 The DPWH, upon recommendation of the NDRRMC, shall upgrade and convert  
24 existing structures that meet the minimum requirements of this Act into permanent

1 fully-equipped and disaster-resilient structure, particularly in cases where the LGU in  
2 the priority list has no available site for the construction of a new evacuation center.

3 *Sec. 7. Coordination Among Agencies.* – The NDRRMC shall coordinate with the  
4 DENR, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), DPWH,  
5 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DOH, Department of the  
6 Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Science and Technology  
7 (DOST) for technical assistance with regard to the design and building specifications,  
8 facility functionality, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers  
9 that will be established and upgraded pursuant to this Act.

10 The concerned government agencies and instrumentalities shall provide  
11 assistance to the NDRRMC, when necessary, to ensure the effective and efficient  
12 implementation of this Act.

13 *Sec. 8. Priority in the Establishment of Evacuation Centers.* – The NDRRMC  
14 shall, in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine  
15 Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-PHIVOLCS), Department of Science  
16 and Technology – Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services  
17 Administration (DOST-PAGASA) and Department of Environment and Natural  
18 Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), identify areas to be given  
19 the highest priority in the establishment of new evacuation centers.

20 The NDRRMC shall make a priority list of (a) LGUs that need evacuation centers  
21 and (b) LGUs that need the upgrading and conversion of existing infrastructure, using  
22 criteria that take into account the LGU’s susceptibility, exposure and vulnerability to  
23 hazards, their readiness in implementing the construction of evacuation centers, and  
24 such other factors as may be determined by NDRRMC. It shall also specify a timeline

1 and annual targets, including appropriate budgetary requirements, in relation to the  
2 establishment of evacuation centers in priority areas and high-risk communities.

3         *Sec. 9. Turnover of Evacuation Center.* – Upon evaluation and determination  
4 that the evacuation center constructed or the converted existing structure meets the  
5 prescribed standards, the NDRRMC shall enter into a memorandum of agreement  
6 (MOA) with the DPWH and the concerned local government units (LGUs), for its proper  
7 turnover, maintenance, operation, and management. The NDRRMC, together with the  
8 DSWD, shall provide technical assistance and support services to these LGUs in the  
9 management of the facility.

10         *Sec. 10. Operation and Management.* – The LGUs concerned shall be primarily  
11 responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers  
12 established under this Act.

13         The local *sanggunian* shall promulgate rules, guidelines, and procedures for the  
14 use and operation of the evacuation center under its jurisdiction. The guidelines shall  
15 prescribe rules on the utilization of the evacuation center for other activities or  
16 purposes authorized by the LGU: *Provided*, That the utilization of the evacuation  
17 center and its amenities for such authorized activities or purposes shall only be  
18 temporary with corresponding provisions on cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing  
19 immediately after use; *Provided further*, That it shall not in any way compromise the  
20 serviceability or impede the use thereof when a disaster occurs; *Provided finally*, That  
21 the LGU shall impose such penalties as may be deemed proper on the organizers of  
22 authorized activities when the evacuation center suffers any damage, defacement, or  
23 loss during or as a result of such activities.

1           The LGUs may enter into MOAs with other LGUs for the shared use of said  
2 evacuation centers, as the need arises. LGUs may also enter into contracts that would  
3 be beneficial for the evacuation centers, including but not limited to the enhancement  
4 of amenities, upgrading of building capacity, among others.

5           The LGUs shall be responsible for facilitating the general cleaning and repair of  
6 facilities, including fumigation, and ensuring that the facility is safe for its intended  
7 use.

8           **Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from  
9 the effectivity of this Act, the NDRRMC shall, in consultation with the DPWH, DSWD,  
10 DHSUD, DOST, DENR, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of  
11 the Philippines, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate  
12 the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

13           **Sec. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation  
14 of the construction of evacuation centers shall be charged against the current year’s  
15 appropriation of the DPWH provided for this purpose. Thereafter, the amounts  
16 necessary for the construction of evacuation centers shall be included in the annual  
17 General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide for the continued  
18 maintenance, operation and management of the evacuation centers.

19           **Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
20 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force  
21 and effect.

22           **Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
23 letters of instruction, administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the  
24 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1           Sec. 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen after (15) days following  
2 the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general  
3 circulation.

*Approved,*