EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the past decades, schools have been used to house hundreds or thousands of evacuees during disasters and calamities. These conditions have disrupted education, caused damage to educational facilities and equipment, and displaced students from learning. Schools have insufficient contingency plans on camp management and preparedness to act as evacuation centers. Thus, public schools should not be used as evacuation centers in order to ensure the continuity of education even in the midst of disasters and calamities.

This measure aims to establish an evacuation center in all cities and municipalities that will become temporary shelter of victims of disasters. Such structure should withstand the impacts of disaster, reduce social vulnerability for certain groups, meet certain safety standards, ensure reliable water supply and uninterrupted power supply, and set up facilities for sanitation and hygiene.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

LIANDA B. BOLILIA
Representative
4th District, Batangas
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7506

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTER IN ALL CITIES
AND MUNICIPALITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2020.”

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 government must invest in building life-saving, disaster-resilient evacuation centers in all municipalities and cities as a strategic component for disaster mitigation and preparedness framework and for long-term development agenda for local communities.

SECTION 3. Establishment/Construction of Evacuation Centers. – There shall be an established evacuation center in every city and municipality throughout the country which shall provide basic needs and assistance to all evacuees, and shall serve as their temporary shelter that will guarantee the safety and wellbeing of all who have become victims of natural calamities or hazards/emergency events such as, typhoons, floods, fire, storm surges, weather disturbances, earthquakes, volcano eruption, and outbreak of illnesses/diseases that may cause imminent danger to their life and property.
SECTION 4. Evacuation Center Requirements. - The following shall be the minimum requirements for every evacuation center that will be established under this Act:

a. Location – The evacuation center should be easily accessible to evacuees and to emergency rescue personnel. It should be located away from potential primary and/or secondary hazards. Local Government Units (LGUs) concerned shall coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify the appropriate location of the evacuation center.

b. Structural Capacity – The evacuation center must be able to withstand category 5 typhoons and magnitude 8 earthquakes. It shall be built in accordance with Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines” and should adhere to the International Building Code.

c. Facilities – The evacuation center shall have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and uninterrupted power supply. It shall have special shelter arrangements for more vulnerable individuals including lactating mothers, children, the elderly, and persons with disability.

SECTION 5. Operations and Management of the Evacuation Center. - The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of evacuation centers established under this Act.

SECTION 6. Role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council - The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, or its successor, shall be the primary lead agency which shall oversee the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to fund the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers under this Act shall be sourced from a portion of the general appropriations of the DPWH. Every year thereafter, the amounts
necessary for the construction and maintenance of evacuation center shall be included in the list of programs as part of annual budget in the General Appropriations Act.

The appropriations necessary for the operation and management of the evacuation centers shall be charged against the funds of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council (LDRRMC), or its successor.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety days (90) after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,