

HONORABLE JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

Chairperson

Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace

Unification and Reconciliation

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Dear **Senator ESTRADA**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **supports Senate Bills Numbered 193, 940, 1200 and 1652** or the “**Establishment of Evacuation Center in All Cities, Provinces and Municipalities**”, introduced by Senators Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Win Gatchalian, Manuel M. Lapid, and Raffy T. Tulfo, respectively, which seek to provide victims of disasters temporary shelters that will guarantee their safety, promote their social well-being, and guard their welfare while they recover and rebuild their homes and their lives.

For the enhancement of the Bills, the DSWD respectfully recommends the following:

1. To consolidate the Bills.
2. **Evacuation Center Requirements under Section 4 of SBNs 193, 940, and 1200, and Section 3 of SBN 1652**
 - 2.1 On **item A. Location Designation**, to include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the identification of locations for the evacuation centers to consider safety, sustainability, and accessibility.
 - 2.2 On **item B. Structural and Building Capacity (Section 4.b. of SBNs 193, 940, and 1200 and Section 3.b. of SBN 1652)**
 - 2.2.1 To change from “*The specifications of the evacuation centers shall be periodically reviewed, and if necessary, revised by the DPWH every three (3) years.*” to “*The DPWH shall assess the quality of the building every year and/or every time the building is used as evacuation center.*”

2.2.2 To consider the following policy instruments apart from Republic Act (RA) No. 6541 or the “National Building Code of the Philippines”, to wit:

2.2.2.1 **Batas Pambansa Bilang 344** or an Act to enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Institutions, establishments and Public Utilities to Install Facilities and other Devices;

2.2.2.2 **DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepEd Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2021** or Guidelines on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Internally Displaced Person Protection (IDPP);

2.2.2.3 Philippine Green Building Code from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); and

2.2.2.4 The International Building Code.

2.3 On **item C. Amenities and Accessibility** (*Section 3.c. of SBNs 193, 1200 and 1652, and Section 4.d of SBN 940*), to consider the following laws and guidelines:

2.3.1 To include the standards stipulated in the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2021 on the CCCM and IDPP and Republic Act No. 10821 or the “Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act”;

2.3.2 **DSWD-DILG-DOH-DepEd Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2021** or Guidelines on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Internally Displaced Person Protection (IDPP); and

2.3.3 Comprehensive Emergency and Protection of Children (CEPC) Manual of Operations.

2.4 To consider that the ratio of the toilet/shower **facility must be (one) 1 for every ten (10) males and females and one (1) for every eight (8) Persons with Disabilities or Elderly.**

2.5 To include the installation of the following:

2.5.1 Interview or Counseling Room for the psychosocial intervention for individuals and families who experienced trauma;

2.5.2 Play area or activity area or child-friendly space for younger children;

- 2.5.3 Lactating mother or women-friendly space;
 - 2.5.4 Kitchen and dining areas; and
 - 2.5.5 Storage room.
3. **On Operation and Management** (*Section 5 of SBNs 193 & 1200, Section 9 of SBN 940, and Section 6 of SBN 1652*)
- 3.1 To consider the function of the Camp Coordination Committee on the Local Government Unit (LGU) as prescribed by the Joint Memorandum Circular No.2, s. 2021 to manage and monitor the evacuation center;
 - 3.2 To impose penalties on any violation of the Section on Operation and Management that will give rise to civil or criminal action;
 - 3.3 To provide that the mandatory audit of infrastructure be subject to the existing COA rules and regulations;
 - 3.4 To mandate the NDRRMC to be the lead agency in the formulation of guidelines on the operation and management of evacuation centers for guidance of all LGUs. Likewise, the LGU may opt to include additional provision for their jurisdiction;
 - 3.5 To mandate the LGUs to maintain and manage the evacuation center with assigned ground officials to ensure its availability when it will be needed;
 - 3.6 To include the formulation of guidelines and procedures for the use of the evacuation center including whenever there is no occurrence of disaster or calamity;
 - 3.7 To include in the function of the LGUs the monitoring of the evacuation center;
 - 3.8 To include the Local Social Welfare and Development Office in the operations and management of evacuation centers as they are accountable and responsible on the social protection programs and services;
 - 3.9 To include the funding for personnel requirement to manage the evacuation center; and
 - 3.10 To include standards accreditation for all established evacuation centers.

4. On the **Role of the NDRRMC** (*Section 6 of **SBNs 193 and 1200***)

To include the DSWD in providing technical assistance to the LGU to ensure the compliance standards and functionality of the evacuation centers.

5. On **Coordination Among Agencies** (*Section 8 of **SBN 940** and Section 5 of **SBN 1652***)

To include the DSWD, DOH and DILG in providing technical assistance on the design specifications, facility functionality, cost estimates, and construction details.


6. On **Appropriations** (*Section 7 of **SBN 193**, Section 10 of **SBN 940**, Section 9 of **SBN 1200**, and Section 8 of **SBN 1652***)

Recommending that the funding requirement in the implementation of the programs be charged against the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) of the LGU concerned or for the initial funding, as such, we suggest replacing the sentence to read as follows: *"The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction of evacuation centers shall be charged against the budget of the LDRRMF of the LGU concerned, Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of evacuation centers shall be included in the Annual Appropriations Act."*

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: MAR 17 2023