

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1403

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

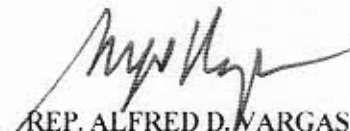
It is a common practice to use public schools as evacuation centers during calamities, armed conflicts, and emergencies. However, schools are not ideal venues for such purpose because they lack the necessary amenities to accommodate evacuees.

Furthermore, using schools as evacuation centers brings about another concern: the disruption of the students' academic activities. The classes are severely affected when evacuees cannot immediately vacate school premises. This displaces students to makeshift classrooms which may not be conducive to learning.

This bill proposes the construction of a multi-purpose gym in every local government in the Philippines. This structure will permanently serve as evacuation centers in times of calamities.

The bill also sets the optimum safety requirements that these gyms should meet. The proposed evacuation gym must be easily accessible to evacuees and emergency rescue personnel. The gym must be able to withstand any natural or man-made disasters. It must be designed to have space that can be used flexibly for recreational activities and as sleeping quarters during the evacuation. The gym must also be well-ventilated, able to accommodate large groups of people, and must have bathing and toilet amenities.

The proposed gym will not only effectively address the needs of displaced families in times of emergencies, but will also allow students to finish their academic calendar without disruption. Thus, the passage of this bill is sought.


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Fifth District, Quezon City

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-
PURPOSE GYM IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES TO SERVE
AS EVACUATION CENTERS DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY OR
DISASTER AND 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 "Multi-Purpose Gym in All Municipalities and Cities Act 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 multi-purpose 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 Multi-Purpose Gym.** - The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall undertake the construction of a multi-purpose 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 the 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 the Local Government Units (LGUs) may include in their respective local infrastructure program the construction of a multi-purpose gym.

Section 4. Construction Priority. - The DPWH shall give construction priority to third to sixth class municipalities, especially those located in disaster-prone areas. DPWH shall coordinate with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Las concerned to determine which disaster-prone areas should be prioritized in the construction of the facility.

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

Section 5. Multi-Purpose Gym Requirements. - The facilities shall, at the minimum, have the following requirements

- a. *Location* - The multi-purpose gym should be easily accessible to evacuees and to emergency rescue personnel. It should be kept at a safe distance from danger areas or hazards. LGUs concerned shall coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify the appropriate location of the multi-purpose gym.
- b. *Structural Capacity* - The multi-purpose gym must be able to withstand wind speeds of at least 155 miles per hour and seismic activity of at least 7.2 magnitude. The DPWH shall formulate the building specifications for the multi-purpose gyms and shall ensure the compliance with these specifications during the construction of the facilities. DPWH shall periodically review, and if necessary, revise the specifications as needed.
- c. *Amenities* - The multi-purpose gym must be well-ventilated and able to accommodate large numbers of evacuees, it shall have, at the minimum, the following amenities:
 - 1. Floor area devoid of permanent fixtures to be used flexibly for assemblies, sports events, and as sleeping quarters for evacuees;
 - 2. Shower and toilet facilities; and
 - 3. Isolated area that can be used as a clinic in times of evacuations.

Section 6. Operation and Management of the Multi-purpose Gym. - The operation and management of the multi-purpose 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 the 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 implementing 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. - In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

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

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

Approved.