

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Cotabato City

Second Parliament

Proposed Parliament Bill No. 227

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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Introduced by:

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AN ACT ENSURING MANDATORY EVACUATION CENTERS IN EVERY BARANGAYS OF THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, DESIGNED TO CREATE A HAVEN THAT PRIORITIZE SAFETY, ACCESIBILITY, FULLY-EQUIPPED FACILITIES, EMPOWEMENT, AND RESILIENCE AND PROVIDING FUND THEREOF.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed "Safer Haven Act" aims to establish a mandatory evacuation center in each barangay within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Recognizing the vulnerability of the region to various calamities, including flooding, armed conflict, and other disasters, this act emphasizes the urgent need for reliable and secure evacuation centers that prioritize the safety and well-being of evacuees.

By enacting this act, we seek to ensure that every barangay in the BARMM is equipped with a designated evacuation center that adheres to the core principles of safety, accessibility, fully-equipped facilities, empowerment, and resilience. These evacuation centers will serve as crucial havens during emergencies, providing adequate shelter, sanitary facilities, potable water supply, storage areas for relief goods, communication systems, and medical and first aid facilities.

The Safer Haven Act mandates the cooperation and support of relevant government units and ministries, including the Ministry of

Interior and Local Government, Ministry of Public Order and Safety, Ministry of Social Services and Development, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, and the Bangsamoro Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. Through collective efforts, these entities will oversee the establishment, construction, and maintenance of the evacuation centers, ensuring that they meet the specific needs and challenges faced by the BARMM.

Funding for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of the evacuation centers will be allocated from the Bangsamoro Appropriation Act. Additionally, the act encourages partnerships with national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to explore additional sources of funding, supplementing the allocated budget.

By enacting the Safer Haven Act, we aim to enhance the resilience of the Bangsamoro people and strengthen the institutional capacity for disaster management at the local level. This act underscores our commitment to safeguarding the lives and properties of the residents of the BARMM, providing them with safe and inclusive evacuation centers in times of crisis.

Based from the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently requested.



JAAFAR APOLLO MIKHAIL L. MATALAM
Member of Parliament

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SECTION 1. *Short Title and Purpose* – This bill shall be known as the “**SAFER Haven Act**” of Bangsamoro Region.

The purpose of this act is to establish evacuation centers in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) that adhere to the core principles represented by the acronym SAFER.

Sustained Safety: Evacuation centers prioritize the safety and well-being of individuals during emergencies. Measures such as structural integrity, hazard mitigation, and emergency response protocols ensure the sustained safety of evacuees.

Accessibility for All: Evacuation centers are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all individuals, including persons with disabilities, elderly individuals, and pregnant women. Barrier-free access, appropriate facilities, and accommodations are provided to ensure that everyone can seek refuge without hindrance or discrimination.

Fully-Equipped Facilities: Evacuation centers are equipped with essential facilities and resources to meet the basic needs of evacuees. This includes adequate shelter spaces, sanitary facilities, potable water supply, storage areas for relief goods, communication systems, basic medical and first aid facilities, ramps for accessibility, proper lighting, ventilation, and child-friendly spaces and facilities.

Empowerment: Evacuation centers empower evacuees by providing them with necessary support, resources, and information to cope with emergencies. Educational programs, skills training, and psychosocial support are offered to enhance the self-reliance and resilience of individuals, enabling them to actively participate in their own recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Resilience: Evacuation centers promote community resilience by fostering a culture of preparedness and proactive disaster management. This includes conducting regular drills, establishing early warning systems, promoting disaster risk reduction measures, and facilitating community engagement and participation in disaster response and recovery planning.

By upholding these principles, the SAFER Haven Act aims to establish a network of reliable and secure shelters that prioritize the safety, accessibility, fully-equipped facilities, empowerment, and resilience of evacuees within the BARMM.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the people's right to life and property, promote their general welfare, and strengthen the country's institutional capacity for building the resilience of local communities.

The establishment of evacuation centers in all barangays aims to address the vulnerability of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to the impacts of climate change and other human-made disasters while adhering to universal standards of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 2. Establishment of the Mandatory Evacuation Centers in Every Barangay. The responsibility of overseeing the establishment and maintenance of SAFER Haven in all barangays within the BARMM lies with the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government.

The Ministry of the Interior and Local Government, in collaboration with the concerned local government units, Ministry of Public Order and Safety, Ministry of Social Services and Development, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, and Bangsamoro Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, shall work

together to provide support and assistance for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of the evacuation centers.

The SAFER Haven shall be equipped with essential facilities, including but not limited to:

- a) Adequate and safe shelter spaces to accommodate evacuees;
- b) Sanitary facilities, including toilets and bathing areas;
- c) Potable water supply;
- d) Storage areas for relief goods and emergency supplies;
- e) Communication systems for coordination with local authorities and emergency response teams;
- f) Basic medical and first aid facilities;
- g) Accessible ramps and pathways for persons with disabilities;
- h) Adequate lighting and ventilation;
- i) Child-friendly spaces and facilities.

SEC. 3. Responsibilities of Barangays. Each barangay shall designate a Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) responsible for the planning, coordination, and management of the evacuation center.

The BDRRMC, in collaboration with relevant ministries and offices, shall develop and implement a barangay evacuation plan, including protocols for the activation, operation, and maintenance of the evacuation center.

The BDRRMC, with the support of the Ministry of Social Services and Development, shall conduct regular drills, training programs, and awareness campaigns to ensure the preparedness of barangay residents and evacuation center personnel in times of emergencies or disasters.

SEC. 4. Funding. The necessary funds for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of the SAFER Haven shall be allocated from the Bangsamoro Appropriation Act.

The BARMM, in partnership with national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, shall explore additional sources of funding to supplement the allocated funds.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, in coordination with relevant agencies and offices, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this act.

SEC. 7. Penalties. Failure of a barangay to establish and maintain a SAFER Haven as mandated by this act shall be subject to administrative sanctions.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publications in a newspaper of regional circulation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

APPROVED,

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