

## 400 unemployed, out of school QC youth in skills training program

**By Rio N. Araja**

CLOSE to 400 unemployed residents of Quezon City, including out-of-school youths, have recently completed a skills training program provided by Acting Mayor Joy Belmonte.

Belmonte said she hopes that through their newly learned skills, the benefi-

ciaries would be able to land decent jobs or start up their own small businesses.

“Instead of giving them dole outs like food and money, why not just teach them a new skill? In that way, you will be giving them an opportunity to find a better occupation or a steady source of livelihood,” she said.

The Special Training for Employ-

ment Program is a program of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority that Belmonte adopted as one of her poverty alleviation programs targeting the city’s disadvantaged communities, specifically out-of-school youths, high school dropouts, and solo parents aged 15 and above.

Belmonte called on the graduates to make better use of their new skills and credentials to uplift their lives and that of their families.

“No one can help you better than yourselves. We at the city government can only offer you opportunities – in the end it is your hard work and dedication that will make the difference,” she said.