

QC fixes flood walls as rains sink Roxas

By Rio N. Araja

QUEZON City Mayor Herbert Bautista has ordered the inspection of all flood walls to step up preparations for the coming rainy season.

He tasked the engineering department to inspect retaining walls, declog waterways, and improve the drainage channels in a bid to minimize floods, especially during heavy downpour.

This developed as almost a thousand families in Barangay Roxas sought shelter on higher ground due to overnight rains on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the local government of Quezon City suspended classes from preschool to elementary due to bad weather.

One-story homes were submerged in flood waters for over an hour, families living near the creek in the barangay said. Parts of Barangay Tatalon, Aran-

eta Avenue, and E. Rodriguez Avenue were also flooded.

Floodwaters have since subsided, but piles of trash covered the streets. Trash that clogged waterways came from various places outside of Roxas District, village officials said.

Bautista, however, took pride in saying Quezon City is most prepared among local government units in flood control efforts because of the completion of some 17 city-funded waterways infrastructure projects designed to prevent flash floods during heavy downpours.

With the completion of all preparations, the residents could expect minimal floods

in this rainy season, the mayor said.

According to city engineer Joselito Cabungcal, the projects built at a cost of P179.6 million consisted of newly constructed retaining and revetment walls, grouted rip-raps and concrete canals built along different water channels, including San Francisco River, Kalamiong Creek, Anaran Creek, Pasong Tamo Creek and Roxas District.

Bautista said the city government has set aside P23.5 million for the construction of the reinforced concrete revetment wall phase 2 along San Francisco River—Lorraine Street at Parkway Village in Barangay Apolonio Samson;

Another P15.4 million, for the construction of a concrete retaining wall at 8th Street in Barangay Mariana; P14.7 million for the reinforced concrete retaining wall at Kalamiong Creek—Spring Valley (Phase 6) in Barangay Bagong Silangan;