

QC council waives P300-M increase in annual revenue

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QUEZON City council waives an additional P300 million from its annual revenue in its bid to suspend, for two years, the implementation of a city ordinance increasing the outdated fair market values (FMVs) of land and basic unit construction costs to reduce the burden on taxpayers amid inflation.

The adjustment in FMVs according to Ordinance No. SP-2556, S-2016 is expected to increase the real property tax to be paid by property owners in Quezon City.

“If we increase the fair market values now, the city’s assessor is projecting that we could have an additional P300 million for the Quezon City government on the first year of implementation alone, but we’re moving to suspend the implementation for two years because of the current economic situation,” explained Majority Floor Leader Councilor **Franz Pumaren** in a press conference on Oct. 26.

The councilor added that the P300-M increase in revenue is only the expected uptake from the first year. When the city implements the ordinance on its second year to include updates on improvements, the additional revenue is estimated to be around P700 million.

Meanwhile, to reduce the high record of ordinance violations in the city, Quezon City Council launched “Batas QC,” the first mobile application on local ordinances to spread awareness on the rules and penalties concerning local laws.

This is the first user-friendly, city-based database that everyone can easily access, and it aims to counter ordinance violationthe Quezon City Hall on Nov. 6.

The app developed after the **Quezon City Police District (QCPD)** recorded the highest number ordinance violators, making up 58.4 percent of all arrests made for ordinance penalties in Metro Manila.

The high number of apprehensions led the local government to implement Ordinance 2752-2018, mandating law enforcers to issue ordinance violation receipts (OVR) in the city. With the Batas QC app, it will help residents understand ordinances as the OVR system is rolled out.

The app, downloadable through the Google Playstore, can be used even when offline. Copies of the ordinance are also downloadable through the app.

Batas QC was developed by Thinc Office Corp., the pioneering online legal resource in the country.