

Increased revenue Generation in Quezon city necessary — Belmonte

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Although Quezon City (QC) consistently ranks among top cities in revenue generation, Vice Mayor **Joy Belmonte** said there is still much room for improvement to drive up the city's income per capita. "Many say we are the richest city with an P18.5 billion budget and then we even passed a supplemental budget of another P6 billion. But we must bear in mind that those are in absolute terms, not in per capita," she explained at a recent news briefing. "If you talk about per capita, we are not a rich city at all. We have so much more people," Belmonte said. While QC is usually compared to the city of Makati, the latter has almost the same budget as QC but only a fraction of the city in terms of population and size. "We have 3.1 million people and we are one-fourth of Metro Manila so in other words, we cannot talk about income in absolute terms, but we have to talk about it in the context of the size and the demographics of a city." In terms of total assets, QC has been dubbed the country's richest city for several years. However, in COA's report for 2017, Makati dethroned QC as the richest local government unit. Despite Quezon City and Makati's close figures, Makati's population of 588,894 pales in comparison to QC's nearly three million, according to the 2015 census. Meanwhile, QC posts a land area of 165 square kilometers against Makati's 27 square kilometers.