

Anti-shingles shots free for elderly in QC

By Rio N. Araja

QUEZON City Mayor **Herbert Bautista** on Thursday backed City Ordinance 2760 that would provide the elderly with free anti-shingles vaccines.

He signed the measure authored by District 3 Councilor **Eufemio "Pinggoy" Lagumbay** to extend such medical attention to all registered senior citizens in the city.

At least P20 million has been allocated for the vaccination and information dissemination campaign, the mayor noted.

Meanwhile, **Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council** said 27,438 drug surrenderers have been profiled in a bid to enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of its anti-drug campaign.

"When we started the campaign against drugs, we had no idea how many were positive. We did not have data, and we only know which areas were highly affected," Vice Mayor **Joy Belmonte** said.

"At least now, with our database, we can more or less see the trend of how many are surrendering per month and we can extrapolate how many we have to rehabilitate," she added.

The vice mayor is the chairperson of the anti-drug council. The database is being managed by QCADAAC in partnership with barangay representatives and the **Quezon City Police District**.

"With this information, we can plan better and monitor better our responsiveness. After all, we should first know who these drug dependents are before we address their needs," Belmonte pointed out.