

QC mobile app seeks to curb extortion

By Rio N. Araja

TO CURB extortion in ordinance violations in the locality, Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte encouraged her constituents to use the "Batas QC," a mobile application compiling the city's local measures so apprehended persons could understand the penalties and fines associated with their violation.

"I would tell all those who get apprehended for violations to ask the enforcers about the ordinance, their violation, and the right penalties. All our traffic enforcers, for instance, have the app installed on their phones so they can easily show the violation and how much needs to be paid," Belmonte said.

She noted that since the amounts of the fines are clearly shown in the app, this can help combat extortion among ordinance enforcers in the city.

"All our residents in Quezon City can also download the app for free on their smartphones so they can check their violation. *Kang tunay na may violation sila, buwag na po silang nagpabiktima sa pangongotang*" Belmonte said.

She gave assurances the local government is serious in its campaign to rid the city of extortion activities.

"All our enforcers have IDs with names, so we welcome reports from citizens who are not given the right penalties. We have always been very strict with regards to that," she added.