

QC puts up one-stop-shop health center in Novaliches

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In a bid to improve government health services to its indigent residents, Quezon City is set to open a one-stopshop health center at the Novaliches District Hospital this year.

According to Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, they will be setting up the 'Malasakit Center' at the Novaliches District Hospital in coordination with some national government agencies.

The center will offer health and financial assistance services from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth).

It will also enforce a singular requirement system to speed up and simplify the processing of requirements in the agencies involved.

Belmonte said that the public can easily ask for assistance as the agencies are all under one roof.

"The DOH can refer patients to tertiary hospitals or treatment centers, or the PCSO will tell them how they can apply for funding for her medical ailment. Andiyan yung PhilHealth, they'll tell you how to use the PhilHealth card. Then, in the DSWD, if indigent, they get certain benefits as well," she explained.

The Malasakit Center is in line with the project of the Office of the President which aims to help the poorest of the poor attain "zero balance" on medical expenses. Through the center, indigents are assured medical treatment without having to queue at different assistance providers, while persons with disabilities and senior citizens will also be prioritized.

"We thank the administration for starting up this project to benefit Quezon City's 3.1 million residents. It is a way for us to show that we care for our citizens especially those that are indigent. That's why it's called Malasakit Center," Belmonte said. Currently, there are at least 15 Malasakit Centers nationwide, with majority of locations in Visayas and Mindanao.