

# Masaganang Bukas Learning Centers inaugurated in QC

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Operation Damayan, The Philippine STAR's social arm, has inaugurated the Masaganang Bukas Learning Centers established in partnership with the Galing ng Bayan Foundation Inc. and District 2 barangays in Quezon City.



Photos by WALTER BOLLOZOS

The STAR president and CEO Miguel G. Belmonte (MGB) and his son, Galing ng Bayan Foundation Inc. founder and president Mikey Belmonte, led the inauguration of the learning centers in Barangays Payatas, Bagong Silangan and Batasan Hills last Saturday. MGB, who is celebrating his 55th birthday, noted the importance of supporting the education of the Filipino youth. "One of our advocacies in The STAR is the education of young people. We all know that the future of our country is in the hands of our youth, so we want to do our little bit to help contribute to their education," he said.

Mikey, a civic leader, said the daycare centers were put up in areas where young children have to walk quite a distance just to go to school.

"Having a daycare center in those areas will help with the education of the youth, which is really an advocacy that the Belmontes have been promoting for a long time. The areas selected are those where there are no daycare facilities so that young kids there won't have to walk so far just to acquire basic education," he said.

“Based on studies, the main formative years of a person’s life are the ages between five to 10, that’s daycare age,” he added.

The younger Belmonte said he, together with barangay officials, envisions to further expand the learning centers, which he said could have a second floor where additional training may be provided.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte lauded the efforts of her nephew Mikey to put up the facilities in the city. She noted how fast the project was implemented, recalling that it had just broken ground last month.

In addition to the inauguration of the Masaganang Bukas Learning Centers, an outreach program was held in Barangay Holy Spirit in celebration of The STAR president’s birthday. Some 1,000 children enjoyed Jollibee meals as well as performances and games organized by Galing ng Bayan Foundation Inc., The STAR and volunteers from the five barangays of District 2.

“Fifty-five years is a milestone and I wanted to celebrate it in a more meaningful manner,” said MGB.

“My wish is for the betterment of our country. I hope that we continue to pray for the good of all of us here in the Philippines. We love our country and we hope that the remaining years of the Duterte administration will be very successful – for the sake of the Filipino people – and of course even after that,” he added.

Barangay Holy Spirit chairman Chito Valmocina expressed gratitude to the Belmonte family for organizing the outreach for their constituents.

Also present during the event were former House speaker and incumbent Quezon City District 4 Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, MGB’s wife Milette and son Santi, and other local officials.