

Belmonte envisions 'fully-automated' city hall in Quezon City

IN line with the Quezon City local government's campaign to reduce inefficiencies and improve the ease of doing business, Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte has unveiled plans to automate city hall transactions using technology.

"We do not just plan to bolster the internal management program. I would like a fully-automated city hall linked up to our traffic management system, our barangays, our planning office, and other offices," Belmonte said in an interview.

One major reason for automation, Belmonte said, is to create a comprehensive plan based on data gathered from automated programs.

"Data from all these transactions is the most important tool we can use to plan future projects and services. This is where we'll find out what the people really need and where we need to improve," she explained.

Belmonte also cited how technology can help reduce corruption in government transactions, saying, "Automation would also minimize face-to-face interaction that can help eliminate corruption, so we have to use technology to its utmost potential in our city."

Earlier this month, Belmonte led the Quezon City Council in launching 'Batas QC', the country's first mobile application containing all local ordinances aimed at informing residents about the rules and penalties of each city ordinance.

The local government has also partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and other agencies in a pilot project that will allow new business registrants to apply for business permits on their mobile phones.