

QC street sweepers to get SSS coverage

SOME 3,000 street sweepers in Quezon City will soon get Social Security System (SSS) and Philippine Health Insurance Inc. (PhilHealth) coverage so they can enjoy pension upon retirement and their worries would lessen in times of sickness.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte called on all *barangay* (village) councils and city councilors to enact ordinances to ensure that street sweepers would not be left out.

"Every street sweeper in Quezon City should be enrolled in SSS and PhilHealth. Your occupation is hazardous to your health. You are prone to various diseases, that's why we will ensure that all of you will receive medical benefits," Belmonte said during a gift-giving ceremony for the street sweepers on Wednesday.

"I'm also calling the attention of our city councilors. You should not forget to allocate funds for the health

insurance of every worker in your own *barangay*. Be conscious that no one will be left out. Everyone has to be covered by these basic benefits," she added.

The vice mayor cited the SSS program called "AlkanSSSy" which could help the city sweepers as they would not be required to eke out big amounts as monthly contributions.

"The SSS has this program where in you will be given piggy banks

where you can deposit your contributions for as low as P12 every day. So at the end of the month, you will have P360 which then you can deposit to SSS as your monthly contribution," she said.

To boost the sweepers' esteem, standard uniforms will be provided for them to show that they are also official employees of the city government that should be respected.

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