

# Belmonte eyes QC performing arts school

QUEZON City Vice Mayor **Joy Belmonte** vowed to give opportunities to the city's student performers to showcase their talents through a database which aims to track and scout every performing arts group that can represent the city in various events in and out of the country.

In her speech at the Pistang Pinoy 2018 at Barangay Veterans Village, Belmonte stressed that the city has numerous talented individuals and performing arts groups who are deprived of platforms where they can express their artistry.

*"Para sa akin, ang pinakatalentadong lahi sa buong mundo ay ang lahing Pilipino, ngunit nakakalungkot na talentado nga tayo pero kulang naman tayo sa mga programa na tumutugon at tumutulong sa mga mamamayan natin na paunlarin pa lalo ang talent na meron sila"* (For me, the most talented race in the world is the Filipino race; but it is sad to note that while we are talented, we lack programs to enrich such talents), Belmonte said.

"That's why I plan to establish a database of all our school-based performing arts groups because I know,

there are heaps of talents waiting to be discovered; we just need to give them the opportunity to showcase it," she added.

The vice mayor also said that there were plans to put up the city's own performing arts school where students can learn and enhance their skills in dancing, singing, acting and theater play.

"We also have talked about founding the Quezon City School for the Arts, of course, with the help from the Philippine School for the Arts. We are starting to plan for this project to happen," she added.

"Because it's sad that we lack a real performing arts theater. Hopefully, through this, we can help the youth improve their talents whether it be dancing, singing, acting, and we can live up our name 'The City of Stars,'" she said.

"Stars refer to talented citizens who we should give a chance to showcase their God-given talents. And that will start in Quezon City, where we have the budget, the political will, and most importantly, we have the vision for a performing arts city — a city where culture and the arts thrives," she added.