

# QC Councilor refutes 'false information' on city health budget

QUEZON City Council Majority Floor Leader **Franz Pumaren** refutes "false information" that the Quezon City Council scrapped a huge chunk of the budget for medicines and hazard pay for department employees, saying it was only re-appropriated directly to the **Mayor's Office** for distribution.

"The budget for medicines was not deleted in the 2019 budget, but was re-appropriated directly to the Mayor's Office with priority disbursement directly to the **Novaliches District Hospital** and the **QC General Hospital**," said Pumaren. "It was the intention of the City Council to

directly provide medicines to the hospitals for efficient distribution."

In the regular session on Jan. 28, Pumaren identified **Quezon City Health Department** Head Verdades Linga as "the one who started sharing the false information" that over P110 million was removed from the city health's 2019 budget in order to "malign the procedure of the budget deliberation and the City Council."

Meanwhile, Councilor **Marvin Rillo** has referred the incident to the Council Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate if the false report was disseminated by the city health head.