

# Belmonte to enforce stricter smoking ban in QC

AMID complaints that the Quezon City government is lenient over the enforcement of the existing smoking ban in the city, Acting City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** pledged to implement a stricter smoking ban as she cares more for the people's health than the bars and other establishments' added profit due to their leniency with the smoking ban.

"I know some who have died because of vice-related illnesses, and some were just victimized by second-hand smoke," said Belmonte.

"You might think it's okay for you, being a smoker, to acquire respiratory diseases, but you're forgetting your smoke can kill the person next to you who doesn't smoke, and it's obviously unfair. Let's also think about that perspective."

Belmonte maintains her ground on penalizing the ban violators, saying that the city would revisit the existing ordinance for possible revisions to make it more aligned with the Executive Order No. 26 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte in May 2017.