

QC named Health and Wellness Tourism Capital

MAYOR **Herbert Bautista** has declared Quezon City as the country's "Health and Wellness Tourism Capital" based on an ordinance.

Introduced by Councilor **Kate Abigail Coseteng**, Ordinance 2799-2018 declares Quezon City as the country's top destination in health and wellness.

"Growth is phenomenal and the Philippines is poised to benefit because of our hospitality, skilled doctors and ready facilities. Quezon City wants to be part of it and I want all of you to be part of this success story," Bautista said in a statement.

The city's medical and tourism stakeholders are tasked to develop a comprehensive plan that will highlight Quezon City as a medical tourism destination through programs and policies that are consistent with the City Tourism Development Plan.

The city government is mandated to promote medical hospital facilities offering high quality medical services with a hospitable workforce and up-to-date facilities at a reasonable cost.

Coseteng, who is also the chairman of the Committee on Tourism, Cultural Affairs, and

Heritage, emphasized the number of hospitals and hotels in Quezon City, which will contribute to the growth of the medical tourism industry.

"There are a lot of medical centers, clinics, fitness centers, aesthetic clinics, and hotels and travel agencies registered in Quezon City. They can come up with a plan or a package that will cater to clients with medical needs," she said.

The councilor added that medical packages could be made available for those who seek treatment in Quezon City.

A technical working group will formulate a development plan that is in accordance with the City Tourism Development Plan and subject it to confirmation by the city council through a resolution. The plan may include programs on tax holiday and incentives for medical facilities and amenities improvement, and acquisition of modern medical and wellness equipment.

The **City Health Department** and the **Quezon City Tourism Department** will serve as the secretariat to facilitate and ensure the performance of the duties of the technical working group.