

QC equips Brgy. Tanod with arnis, training

TO fulfil its aim to improve the security capabilities of barangay tanods (village watchmen), the local government of Quezon City provided a free five-day training course on the national sport, Arnis, to 81 Barangay Public Safety Officers (BPSO) from 25 barangays in the city.

Together with the Rotary Club of New Manila and Arnis Philippines, Inc., Quezon City Vice Mayor **Joy Belmonte** launched the program as she personally supports the advocacy of teaching the Filipino martial arts, especially to tanods since they are prohibited of possessing firearms.

"I support this program because I believe that Arnis is an effective tool to protect yourself and other people, especially for our barangay tanods," said Belmonte.

"For me, this is a great project because since our tanods cannot

carry their own firearms, some perpetrators think that our watchmen cannot harm them. But if we'll teach them these martial arts, they will still be equipped with skills that make them capable of seizing offenders," she added.

At the completion ceremony at Amoranto Sports Complex, the graduates were awarded certificates and their own pair of Arnis sticks which they can already use during foot patrols especially at night.

"This way, we are also teaching our watchmen to provide proper responses during attacks and ways to take down the perpetrators through the use of Arnis so we're not promoting violence," said the vice mayor.

Belmonte added that she is planning to conduct more free training courses on Arnis to more public safety officers to ensure peace and order in barangays in the city.