

QC to empower women through Shared Service Facilities

IN its bid to empower women economically, the local government of Quezon City on Friday launched a Shared Service Facility (SSF) Project in Brgy. Greater Lagro that provides equipment for women entrepreneurs and aims to encourage women to put up their own businesses and earn on their own.

Together with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and *Samahan ng mga Pilipina para sa Reporma at Kaunlaran* (Spark), QC 5th District Rep. Alfred Vargas initiated the formation of the equipment sharing facility that will also provide free training, product development and other technical assistance to women entrepreneurs.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte supported the said program and underscored the importance of empowering women financially because according to her, economic incapability sometimes deprive women of getting



■ Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte (4th, L) leads the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Shared Services Facility.

out from oppressive relationships.

"Again the message is clear — we have to empower the women economically. We are here to help them acquire all the technical skills that they need to be able to earn a living for themselves, by themselves without fear or without thinking that they need the assistance of anybody else," Belmonte said.

The SSF also aims to increase the women entrepreneurs' productivity so that they can accept bulk orders and penetrate new markets which will then result to an increase in income while also showcasing the unique ingenuity of Filipina craftsmanship.

A total of 20 units of machines for sewing will be provided to women micro-entrepreneurs of

Brgy. Greater Lagro including edging machines, round cloth cutting machine, walking foot machines, and embroidery sewing machines among others.

Belmonte also pledged to prioritize the formation of more equipment sharing facilities in the city if given the opportunity to be elected as the city's mayor in the upcoming elections.