

## QCADAAC teams up with EAMC for annual drug testing

TO strengthen Quezon City's advocacy for a drug-free workplace, the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC) has entered a partnership with the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) for the implementation of annual drug test of all the employees under the local government of Quezon City.

In 2015, Quezon City passed the Quezon City Drug-Free Workplace ordinance that requires all officials and employees in the offices of the city government to undergo annual drug testing to ensure the maintenance of a safe and healthy work environment.

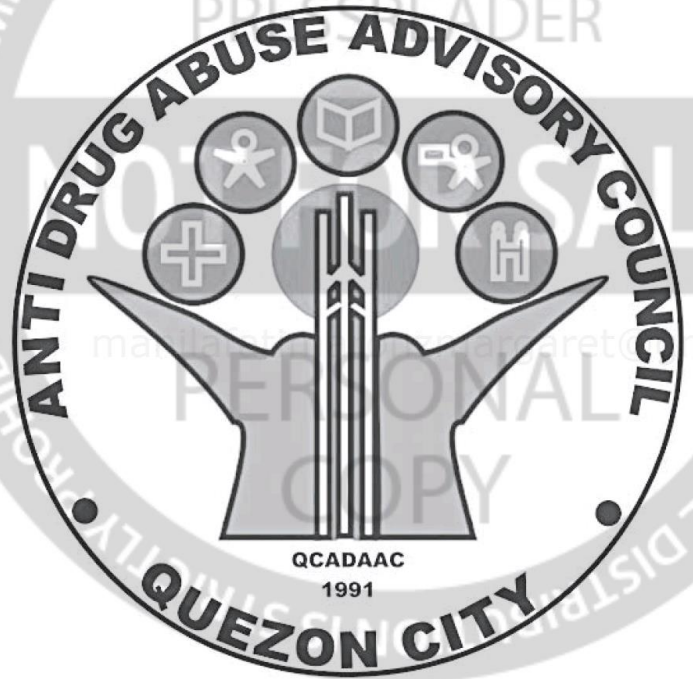
"We expect that the implementation of an annual drug test for our employees will be more efficient. This is to strengthen our drive for a Drug Free Workplace in Quezon City," said QCADAAC Chairman and Quezon City Vice Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte.

In 2018, Belmonte reported

that almost 23,377 government employees, barangay officials, staff, and members of the tricycle operators and drivers association (TODA) have completed the annual drug testing since 2016, which she deemed an effective measure to curb illegal drug abuse among public servants.

"We are striving to keep illegal drug abuse away from our employees so that it will never penetrate our workplaces especially the offices of the Quezon City local government and also to ensure that we maintain a safe and healthy work environment," she said.

Quezon City is also working with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in order to combat illegal drug abuse in private establishments such as hotels, restaurants, bars, subdivisions, condominiums, and warehouses by requiring employees to be educated on the harmful effects of illegal drug abuse.



Based on the ordinance, the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) is mandated not to

renew permits for businesses that will not provide records that their employees are 100 percent drug-free.