

Belmonte thanks Bautista for endorsement

QUEZON City Vice Mayor **Josefina "Joy" Belmonte** thanked Mayor **Herbert "Bistek" Bautista** for endorsing her mayoral candidacy.

Bautista surprised Belmonte during her proclamation rally on March 29 when he described her as not being a mere "rubber stamp" during her three terms as vice mayor.

"His endorsement is something

that I'm happy about. I was very pleased that when he endorsed me, he said in his speech that, finally, he understands why the vice mayor is very strict," she said.

"My only objective is to protect him by making sure [the city government complies] with all the requirements and to protect my institution — the *Sanggunian* (City

Council) — to not be perceived as a rubber stamp. He mentioned in his speech that he finally realized that the vice mayor just wanted to protect him," she added.

Belmonte said she did not allow measures to be passed without scrutiny.

"[B]ecause I belong to the new breed of politicians, I studied and

found out that the *Sanggunian* is the check and balances arm of the local government. So, I would do my job. I would ask questions. I would make sure that the paper works are complete, all the requirements are met, and if they're not, I won't allow a measure to be passed," she said.

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