

Castelo launches free public wifi spot in QC

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Quezon City 2nd district Rep. **Winston Castelo** on Monday led the launch of free wifi (wireless fidelity) service at a busy tricycle terminal in a bid to give common folk more Internet access.

The city government's private partner Airlight Technology Solutions chose as pilot area for free wifi the Don Antonio Village Tricycle Operators and Drivers' Association (DAVTODA).

Castelo, chairman of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, spoke about the correlation between Internet access, and a given city's progress during the simple ceremony.

"Tokyo [in Japan] is one of the fastest growing cities in the world right now [and] it's because of the infrastructure of IT (Information Technology), the free wifi that has been given to its residents," the three-term congressman said.

"So if we want to empower our residents, if we want to fast track the development of our city, I think it is very important that the city invest in free wifi connection," said Castelo, who attended the event along with mayoralty candidate, Quezon City Vice Mayor **Joy Belmonte**.

The DAVTODA free wifi will give local residents 30 minutes of free Internet per device, every day.

Airlight President Leo San Miguel echoed Castelo's statements, saying that there was a .5 percentage point bump in the gross domestic product (GDP) for every additional one percent of the population that gains access to the World Wide Web.

San Miguel said the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee has identified Internet access as a basic service that governments must provide, placing it on the same level as housing, education, and health.