

Belmonte gets INC nod

BY JAIME R. PILAPIL

THE Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) threw its support behind Quezon City mayoral candidate Josefina "Joy" Belmonte, boosting her chance of winning in the elections on May 13.

"I was informed on Monday that INC [would] support me and the majority of the candidates in my slate. This is very, very good news for us, and of course, for Quezon

City because we are committed to our promise of giving selfless, top-notch service that will benefit the city's residents," Belmonte, who is on her final term as vice

mayor, said.

Thanking INC leader Eduardo Manalo, Belmonte said the INC's support was an honor as its main temple and office are in Quezon City.

When asked why she thinks the INC gave her the endorsement over other mayoral candidates, Belmonte said that she "believes the support of majority of the people of Quezon City is with her."

"We are overwhelmed by the support we have been receiving

across all groups in Quezon City, and I think INC shares our vision of wanting the city to keep developing to bring more progress down to the people," she said.

Belmonte attributed the endorsement to her clean track record and successful programs implemented as vice mayor.

"I personally will not take this for granted. If elected, I will make sure that my platform for inclusive development is felt by all. We will improve and eradi-

cate corruption in city services. We will implement the projects that directly benefit the poor and marginalized. Of course, we will also make sure *tuloy-tuloy ang pag-unlad ng lungsod alinsunod po sa islogan natin na 'Kasama Ka Sa Pag-unlad'* (that the city's progress continues in line with our slogan)," she said.

Belmonte added that the endorsement was proof that voters were receptive of her platform despite the black propaganda

against her.

In the recent survey conducted by RP-Mission and Development Foundation Inc. from May 4 to 8, 2019 with 8,000 registered voters, Belmonte widened her lead over her primary opponents, Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo and Ismael "Chuck" Mathay 3rd.

Belmonte remains the top choice for mayor with 65 percent over Crisologo, who got 30 percent, and Mathay, who received 3 percent.