

Belmonte promises strengthened anti-drug efforts in barangays

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Quezon City Mayor-elect **Joy Belmonte** has vowed to strengthen anti-illegal drug efforts by enlisting more volunteers in barangays.

“In my three terms of vice mayor, one of my advocacies was really the fight against illegal drugs. We are happy that, in Quezon City, we have seen many barangays progress from being severely affected to moderately affected or slightly affected. We have been adding more and more drug-cleared barangays in the past months, and I can assure you that the local government will continue to do so,” she said in a statement yesterday.

“Under the new administration, we will partner more closely with our barangay officials and volunteers to make this happen while also making sure that our drug-cleared communities remain drug-resistant,” she added.

Belmonte heads the **city’s anti-drug abuse and advisory council** in charge of coordinating efforts to address drug prevalence and rehabilitate users.

The incoming mayor stressed the importance of empowering barangay anti-drug abuse councils (BADACs) to ensure that the matter is addressed at the grassroots level.

“We have been making sure that BADACs are functional and effective in their mandate to suppress illegal drugs and criminality at the barangay level. One way to ensure that is through the recruitment of volunteers to help in the barangay’s campaign against dangerous drugs,” she said.

“Volunteers are expected help in reporting drug incidents and cases, facilitating an information campaign through their families and communities, and implementing programs that prevent drug addiction,” Belmonte added.