

Belmonte: QC to implement 'lasting' solutions to fire incidents

FOLLOWING several fire incidents occurring in Quezon City in the past few weeks, Quezon City Mayor-elect **Joy Belmonte** has vowed to implement "lasting" solutions to prevent fire especially among households in the city.

"This year has brought us more big fires than I have ever encountered, and so one of the things I'll be pushing is more lasting solutions to this perennial problem," Belmonte, who is the outgoing Vice Mayor of Quezon City, said.

To address this, one of the long-term solutions Belmonte will push for is working with Meralco to identify and reduce areas in Quezon City where there could be faulty electrical wiring.

"According to data from the **Bureau of Fire Protection** in QC, 785 out of 1034 cases of fire in the city in 2018 were due to faulty wiring that is prone to overloading. That's 76 percent of all fires attributed to electrical wiring," she

pointed out.

In collaboration with Meralco, Belmonte also intends to install individual meters in each home under an electrification program for underprivileged communities.

The mayor-elect likewise said that education will be at the heart of the massive fire prevention campaign in Quezon City.

"Aside from Meralco, we have also been in talks with the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Red Cross for a Fire Prevention Education Program that we've already started to roll out. In the new administration, we'll intensify this to educate more residents on the dangers of illegal electrical connections, octopus wiring, and other risks," Belmonte shared, citing that the program will be spearheaded by the **QC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (QCDRRMO)**.