

# Belmonte backs Rody on reducing red tape, protecting environment

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Quezon City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** yesterday committed to support President Duterte in his call to protect the environment and reduce red tape for businesses applying for permits.

“We support the challenge of President Duterte to local governments to release clearances and permits for businesses in three days,” the mayor said in Filipino, responding to Duterte’s call during his fourth State of the Nation Address on Monday.

“This is part of our 14-point agenda wherein we target to release business permits for those we call low-risk businesses in one to two days,” she added.

For businesses that need a thorough review, Belmonte committed to release the permits in one week.

Aside from the faster processing of permits, Belmonte said the city would promote transparency by publishing the city’s tax rates and making the assessment process transparent.

“Our businesses will understand exactly how we compute their fees and taxes. They will no longer fear hidden charges and arbitrary exactions,” she added.

The mayor said the city would further improve its waste disposal system and establish materials recovery facilities in all barangays.

“We also commit to clear streets and sidewalks in a humane manner and without depriving the people of their homes and livelihood,” she said.