

Belmonte wants center for OFWs improved

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Quezon City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** has committed to improve the city's Migrant Resource Center (MRC) to complement the planned creation of a Department of Overseas Filipinos pushed by President Duterte in his State of the Nation Address on Monday.

“We have to strengthen the MRC to provide more support to overseas Filipino workers,” Belmonte said yesterday. “We have to improve the capacity of the MRC to address the challenges faced by OFWs.”

While it has been operational since 2016, Belmonte said the MRC needs additional manpower and financial resources to carry out its functions and responsibilities for migrant workers.

“This will ensure that social and economic services are made available to Filipino migrants and their families such as financial literacy and investment opportunities for returning OFWs,” she said.

The mayor underscored the importance of financial literacy for OFWs, saying it would help them plan and save for business ventures so they will not have to leave their families again to work abroad.

The center can also help returning Filipino workers in distress, Belmonte said.

During the recent meeting of the Mayors Migration Council in New York, Belmonte said the MRC was created to address the needs of migrant workers, who comprised about 10 percent of the city's population.

The center aims to cater to the needs of Filipino migrants such as application for overseas work, predeparture, transit, on-site services, re-entry, return and reintegration.