

QC mayor vows to strengthen migrant office

Manila Times · 26 Jul 2019 · A8 · JAIME R. PILAPIL

QUEZON City (QC) Mayor Josefina “Joy” Belmonte has committed to strengthen the city’s Migrant Resource Center (MRC) to compliment the proposed Department of Overseas Filipino Workers pushed by President Rodrigo Duterte in his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA).

“We need to boost the capabilities of MRC in the midst of new challenges now being encountered by migrant workers,” she said.

During his fourth SONA, President Duterte renewed his call for the establishment of the said department to ensure the welfare and protection of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Quezon City’s MRC was established in 2016 by virtue of City Ordinance 2500. It provides assistance to OFWs such as application for overseas work, pre- departure, transit, on- site services, reentry, return and reintegration.

Belmonte said the MRC needed additional manpower and financial resources for it to fulfill its mission to ensure that “social and economic services are made available to Filipino migrants and their families such as financial literacy and investment opportunities for returning migrants.”

She underscored the importance of the program, saying it would help OFWs start a business venture in the country rather than leave their families again. In addition, the center can also help returning OFWs in distress.

Belmonte recently showcased the city’s MRC during the Mayors Migration Council meeting in New York, where she was the only mayor invited from the Philippines and whole of Asia.