

QC bags disaster reduction awards

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The local government of Quezon City (QC) bagged no less than five awards in this year's 21st Gawad KALASAG, aside from getting a special citation for having the "best" Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Council.

QC's DRRM Council topped the Highly Urbanized City Category, Barangay Batasan Hills bagged first place in the Best Urban Barangay DRMM Committee, and the Rosa Susano Elementary School ruled the Best Public Elementary School Category.

The QC DRRMC received the Best Government Emergency Management Services award, World Mission Society was deemed the Best Civil Society Organization, and the Quezon City General Hospital was awarded as the best Local Hospital.

Gawad KALASAG recognizes agencies for risk reduction efforts.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte emphasized that the awards underscored Quezon City's readiness, vigilance and resiliency against natural and man-made disasters. Belmonte lauded QC-based private organizations and other stakeholders for their contribution in enhancing the city's disaster preparedness programs.

"This is a symbol that we, as a city, are united and we work as one. Any challenges that come our way, we can succeed in achieving as long as everybody, especially our stakeholders, work together," she said.

The Gawad KALASAG (Kalamidad at Sakuna Labanan, Sariling Galing ang Kaligtasan) was established by the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) to recognize the efforts of government agencies and institutions, local government units, civil society organizations, private sectors and individuals in designing and implementing DRRM programs.