

Mayor Belmonte: Business sector a 'force multiplier' in disaster response

QUEZON City demonstrated why the business sector and the local government should work hand in hand during disasters and emergencies during Metro Manila Shake Drill.

A disaster scenario wherein people trapped in a medium-rise structure were brought to safety by well-trained paramedics from the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and the Special Rescue Unit of the Bureau of Fire Protection was simulated in the hour-long drill at the UP Ayala Technohub along Commonwealth Avenue.

Mayor Joy Belmonte, acting as the city's "responsible official," was on the ground with the Quezon City Incident Management Team which was

called in by the Ayala management to take over the disaster operations following a simulated Intensity 7 earthquake that struck Metro Manila.

Officials from the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council led by MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim and Science Undersecretary Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology were on hand to observe and evaluate the drill participated in by all cities that comprise Metro Manila.

The Metro Manila Shake Drill was meant to ramp up public awareness to be prepared for the possibility of a powerful earthquake striking the capital region.



■ Mayor Joy Belmonte with MMDRRMC official.

MMDA Chairman Lim lauded Quezon City's preparedness and efforts to capacitate the communities and the private sector.

Mayor Belmonte meanwhile, said

city hall needs to forge strong linkages with the private sector, civil society organizations and volunteer groups as these will serve as an effective force multiplier should a wide-scale disaster strikes.