

# Schools, barangays may suspend QC classes

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If the safety of the public, particularly students, is threatened, school heads and barangay chairpersons in Quezon City may suspend classes in their respective jurisdiction during inclement weather.

This was explained to the representatives of Quezon City's School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (SDRRMC), who attended an orientation by the QC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) Office to discuss protocols in declaring class or work suspensions due to inclement weather or other reasons.

Memorandum Circular 1 issued last 19 July by Mayor Joy Belmonte set the general guidelines on localized cancellation or suspension of classes and work in government offices.

Representatives were reminded that school heads may cancel or suspend classes "in cases where urgent action is needed to prevent loss of life or bodily harm," as per Department of Education Order 43 series of 2012 Section 2-B.

Under the new guidelines, barangay chairpersons may also suspend classes and work in their respective jurisdictions if justified in their pre-disaster risk assessments.

The barangays and schools are told to immediately report their decisions for suspension to the (QCDRRMC).

City-wide class suspensions will be announced by 4:30 a.m. and no later than 11:00 a.m. for afternoon classes.

Belmonte said earlier that only the QC Public Affairs and Information Services Department and the QCDRRMC are authorized to announce class and work suspensions and cancelations.