

# Belmonte: Mall violated city ordinance

The mayor said the rights of the LGBT+ community are protected in Quezon City

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The discrimination against a transwoman at a Cubao mall Tuesday night was condemned by Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte.

In strongly criticizing the incident, the mayor mentioned the existence of a local ordinance that protects the rights of members of the LGBT+ community.

“We condemn this kind of discrimination towards members of the LGBT+ community,” Belmonte said, referring to the incident involving Gretchen Custodio Diez. Diez was allegedly forcibly pulled out from the women’s comfort room by a Farmer’s Plaza employee and was charged with unjust vexation when an argument ensued. She was taken to the QC Police District 7, but was later released.

The mayor stressed the episode should have not occurred since the city has a Gender Fair Ordinance that prohibits all forms of discrimination against the LGBT+ sector. Belmonte said Farmers Mall clearly violated the said ordinance for its failure to put up an “All-Gender Toilet” for the LGBT+ community.

“I will still fight for what is right, this violation against the city ordinance in Quezon City. We will prove to them that the law will be strictly implemented,” she said. “It should not happen in Quezon City. It should not happen anywhere in the Philippines.”

“I already ordered the Business Permit and Licensing Department (BPLD) to make sure everybody will follow as soon as possible our Gender Fair Ordinance,” she added. At the same time, she assured members of the LGBT+ community that Quezon City will always protect their rights and be a home for their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

“We do not support any kind of violence and discrimination in our city. To the members of the LGBT+ community, your rights are protected here in QC,” Belmonte guaranteed.

Diez intends to file a complaint against the shopping mall for violating the city ordinance. On the other hand, the charge of unjust vexation filed against her for livestreaming the event on Facebook has been dropped.