

Schools, village chiefs may suspend QC classes

SCHOOL heads and barangay chairpersons in Quezon City may suspend classes in their respective jurisdictions if they believe that public safety will be compromised during inclement weather.

This was explained to the representatives of Quezon City's School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils who attended an orientation on localized class or work suspensions called by the QCDRRM Office.

The QCDRRMO discussed the city's protocols in declaring class or work suspensions due to inclement weather or other reasons.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte had issued Memorandum Circular No. 1 last July 19 that sets general guidelines on localized cancellation or suspension of classes and work in government offices.

One of the issues raised during the

discussion was the authority given to schools and barangays to suspend classes if and when necessary.

The 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 DepEd Order No. 43 series of 2012 Section 2-B. They were also told that, 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, through their

chairpersons, may declare suspensions," QCDRRMO head Mike Marasigan said.

The barangays and schools are told immediately report their decision to suspend classes to the QC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Under the guidelines, city-wide class suspensions will be announced by 4:30 in the morning and no later than 11 a.m. for afternoon classes.

Earlier, Belmonte said only the QC Public Affairs and Information Services Department and the QCDRRMC are authorized to announce class and work suspensions and cancellations.

"Announcement will come from QCDRRMC and PAISD is the only office that can send out that news," the mayor said. **Rio N. Araja**