

Belmonte to meet with QC Pride Council

The local government will ensure the strict implementation of the ordinance protecting LGBTQ+ rights

Daily Tribune (Philippines) · 16 Aug 2019 · A8 · By Alvin Murcia Hananeel Bordey

In a bid to ensure that the Gender Fair Ordinance is properly implemented, Quezon City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** has called for a meeting with the Quezon City Pride Council (QCPC) on 16 August.



“On Friday, I will meet with QCPC. The main initiative of local government is to formulate programs for the members of the LGBTQ+ to be able to fully implement the Gender Fair Ordinance,” the mayor said.

She said the meeting is in reaction to the controversial incident involving transwoman Gretchen Diez, who was humiliated at a mall in Cubao for using a toilet for females.

“You can be sure that we will intensify and improve the implementation of the Gender Fair Ordinance, so that the discrimination Gretchen Diez experienced will not happen again,” Belmonte explained.

Aside from the establishment of gender-neutral toilets, the gathering will tackle other ways to ensure that the rights of the LGBTQ+ are respected, including the introduction of gender sensitivity training workshops for private offices and establishments.

Belmonte earlier condemned the discrimination Diez suffered at the hands of a Farmers Plaza employee.

She was forcibly pulled out from the women’s comfort room, taken to the QC Police District 7, charged with unjust vexation, but was later released.

She stressed the incident should not have happened due to the existence of the Gender Fair Ordinance that prohibits all forms of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ sector.

At the Senate, Sen. Risa Hontiveros reopened the debate on the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) following the Diez incident.

Senators Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go and Imee Marcos expressed their support for the measure. However, a number of male senators expressed confusion over the LGBTQ+ concept.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri suggested rather than pushing for the SOGIE bill, the body should focus on the anti-discrimination bill, which covers all social inequalities.

He said this would be a “happy compromise” and faces a bigger chance of being passed, since this covers religious beliefs, religion and gender.