

# Transgender files rap vs QC mall

BY DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ

**G**RETCHEN Diez filed a complaint on Friday against the management of Farmer's Plaza mall in Quezon City (QC), where she was arrested for attempting to use the ladies' restroom.

In her complaint filed before the QC government's Pride Council, Diez narrated that she was brought to the mall's security office where she was detained for more than an hour, and was "subjected to further acts of ridicule, vilification and harassment." She was later taken to the QC Police District Station 7, where she was arrested and investigated for documenting the incident on video.

"During the investigation, a police officer and the mall security officer brought me to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center to undergo a medical examination. Upon arrival at the hospital, I was handcuffed," Diez said.

She was released a few hours after.

"This is not just my fight, this is the fight of every gender be-

cause what happened to me can happen to anyone and could be happening to anyone — they just chose to remain silent," Diez said in a news conference.

The complaint was filed against the mall, Araneta Center Inc., and its contracting agencies Starline Security Agency Inc. and the sanitation services agency.

Prior to the filing of the complaint, Diez met with QC Mayor Josefina Belmonte.

"*Ngayon na nalaman ko na* (Now that I know), we've heard Gretchen's story, I was able to give instructions also to the different members of the Pride Council," Belmonte said.

"We are with her, she is not alone and she has a very strong ordinance to back her, on which we invoke with whatever decision she decides to take," she added.



Gretchen Diez (left) and Quezon City Mayor Josefina 'Joy' Belmonte face reporters after meeting with the city's Pride council members on Friday, August 16. PHOTO BY RUY MARTINEZ