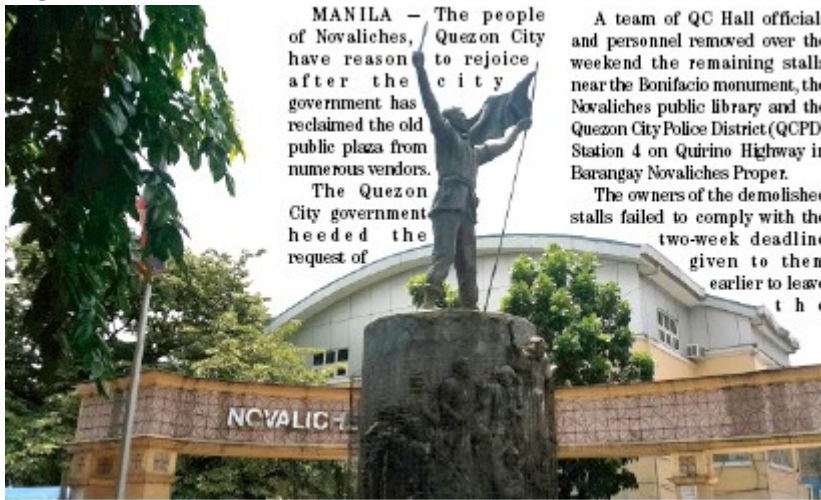


Old Novaliches plaza now vendor-free

The presence of vendors also “desecrated” the local monument for Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio

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A team of QC Hall officials and personnel removed over the weekend the remaining stalls near the Bonifacio monument, the Novaliches public library and the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 4 on Quirino Highway in Barangay Novaliches Proper. The owners of the demolished stalls failed to comply with the two-week deadline given to them earlier to leave the

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City government heeded the request of residents to relocate the vendors, so that they can again use the Novaliches public plaza as a place for leisure and recreation.

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The City Hall clean-up group, called Team Nova, was given the task of clearing the Nova park, roads and other public places of vendors and other obstructions.

The group included personnel from the Mayor's Office, Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD), QC Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS), Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department, QCPD Traffic Sector, Novaliches District Center and QC District 5 barangay chairmen.

They were led by QC traffic czar, lawyer Ariel Inton, former 2nd Dist. Councilor Ranie Ludovica and retired QCPD Col. Procopio Lipana, MDAD officer-in-charge.

The people of Novaliches have deplored for a long time what they considered as the “great invasion” of their public plaza by vendors.

In December 2016, residents asked for a special gift during the Christmas and New Year holidays from then Mayor Herbert M. Bautista.

They wanted him to play “Santa Claus” by restoring the old Novaliches plaza and park in Barangay Novaliches Proper or población, and clearing it of vendors from nearby areas.

Residents said the presence of vendors also “desecrated” the local monument for Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio.

The vendors occupied almost all available space in the plaza and disrupted what should have been the smooth operation of the Quezon City Public Library branch. The two entrances and the parking area for vehicles of people wishing to donate books and other reading and educational materials to the local library had been occupied by vendors who were granted permits by the Novaliches District Center, or Mini-City Hall, to put up tents in the place.

Even the sidewalks along Quirino Highway, General Luis and Susano Streets were occupied, making the passage of thousands of pedestrians an ordeal, especially during the Christmas season.

Barangay Novaliches Proper officials opposed the grant of permits to the vendors to operate in the area, but their opposition “had fallen on deaf ears.”

A retired government employee said they had previously brought the problem to the attention of the local barangay head, but they were told to submit their complaint instead to the mayor’s office.

Mayor Joy Belmonte assumed leadership of Quezon City on 30 June.

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