- Secretary to the Mayor, EPWMD, BCRD)

Belmonte appoints new market administrator

TRUE to her commitment to make Quezon City a model in good governance, Mayor Joy Belmonte has instituted measures to put order in the administration of public and private markets in the city by designating a new team to handle its day-to-day operations.

Mayor Belmonte has issued two office orders dated August 22 designating Margarita Santos as officer-in-charge of the Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD), concurrent to her post as officer-in-charge of the Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD).

The mayor likewise appointed retired police colonel Procopio Lipana to backstop Santos in overseeing the delivery of programs and projects of MDAD.

The move to recast MDAD followed the dismantling of a scheme in which a "private" firm was found operating a market under the Luzon Avenue flyover.

"If you recall I stumbled upon a wet and dry market under the Luzon flyover and discovered that a private company was collecting from 80-150 pesos a day from each vendor. The owners of the company were invited to City Hall through their administrator to show me their paperwork. They never came. It was discovered they also do not have a permit to operate a market. The city government has since taken over the market and written the DPWH to allow the vendors to stay temporarily while an appropriate relocation site is secured. The City Health Officer has inspected the wet market and Task Force Solid Waste collects their garbage. The vendors pay 10 pesos a day to their leaders to maintain cleanliness. The City Legal office is currently investigating the issue and is preparing a case against the private company," Mayor Belmonte said.

Mayor Belmonte has been going around the city to personally inspect the ongoing clearing operations in line with President Duterte's order to reclaim national roads. Her team has since been on the lookout for areas that can be developed into parking spaces and public markets to once and for all solve the root cause of road congestion in Quezon City.