

QC gov't makes sure sidewalk vendors will ply trade legally

Manila Bulletin · 1 Sep 2019 · C-10 · By CHITO CHAVEZ

Quezon City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** on Saturday said the city government has strengthened efforts that will enable sidewalk vendors to ply their trade lawfully in the locality. Insisting on having a sense of balance, Belmonte asserted that road clearing operations should not be the cause of more financial burden to the poor.

In a bid to bring back dignity of labor, Belmonte will have illegal vendors displaced by road-clearing operations properly registered so they can avail of affordable vending sites from the local government.

On Saturday morning, Belmonte encouraged vendors in Brgy. Culiat to support the city's initiative to help them regain their livelihood that was affected by the local government's "Bayanihan Sa Lansangan" campaign.

Belmonte said that her administration has a soft heart for the poor, insisting that among her priorities is to improve the lives and bring back the dignity of the impoverished sector.

"This is part of my vows that centers on improving the lives and ensuring the protection of the vendors affected by the road clearing operation," she said in Pilipino.

Earlier, Belmonte declared that only registered hawkers can avail of the affordable or even free stalls currently being worked out by the local government.

"Kapag sila'y nagparehistro sa siyudad, hindi lang sila mabibigyan ng ID at uniform, kundi makik-inabang din sila sa mga abot-kaya o libreng puwesto na ilalaan ng lokal na pamahalaan (If they register they will not only be given IDs and uniforms but they will also benefit from the reasonable or free rent of stalls provided by the local government)," she added.

The registration will also provide the city government with the needed data to appropriately deal with the issue and how to properly address the vendors' plight.

As of now, Belmonte said there is a huge disconnect between the available data from the **Business Processing and Licensing Office (BPLO)** and the **Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD)** on sidewalk vendors.

That is why we decided to have a citywide registration to determine the exact number of vendors that will provide us with the base data to effectively provide assistance to them," Belmonte said in Pilipino.

The registration will ultimately lead to their legalization, thus protecting them from unauthorized and illegal collections by operators and organizers.

Several vendors groups have already registered with the local government, including those plying their trade under the Luzon Avenue flyover, Arayat Market and Frisco Market.