

QC hog raisers get cash amid swine deaths

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The Quezon City government yesterday started distributing financial assistance to hog raisers who were affected by the African swine flu (ASF) virus.



Mayor Joy Belmonte handed over the cash assistance to hog raisers in Barangay Bagong Silangan where swine deaths have been confirmed.

The hog raisers received P3,000 for every pig and piglet that have been culled.

“Scholarships and livelihood will be provided to the families of hog raisers to help them find new ways to earn a living,” Belmonte said.

The mayor said they would allocate more funds to assist other hog raisers affected by the ASF. “Hinahanapan namin ng funds mula sa iba’t ibang budget sources city government,” she said.

At least 176 pigs in Barangay Bagong Silangan have been culled since Sunday. Thirty pigs were slaughtered yesterday.

There are around 126 hog raisers in the barangay.

Belmonte said about 50 pigs have died in the area in the past days, which prompted the local government to cull the pigs to prevent the spread of the virus to other barangays.

She said additional blood samples within the one-kilometer radius from the affected area were collected and submitted to the Bureau of Animal Industry for testing.

The city veterinary office also took blood samples from pigs in Barangay Payatas where swine deaths have been reported.

Belmonte appealed to barangay officials to cooperate and immediately inform the local government about the presence of backyard piggeries in the city.

City veterinarian Ana Marie Cabel asked hog raisers to report to them cases of sick pigs.

Among the symptoms of ASF are high fever, nose bleeding and ear hemorrhage.

Cabel reminded hog raisers not to dump dead pigs in creeks as it will only spread the virus to other areas.

“Kakalat ang sakit ng baboy kapag tinapon natin sa creek at ilog,” she said.