

# Ninoy's statue to be moved, says QC gov't

By Rio N. Araja

THE children of the late Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr. have given their blessing to transfer the democracy icon’s statue located at the corner of Timog Avenue, the Quezon City government said Thursday.

Mayor Joy Belmonte said the city government reached out to former President Benigno Aquino III and his sisters—multimedia host-actress Kris Aquino, Balsy, Pinky and Viel—to seek their consent to transfer their father’s statue to a “better” site.

The base of Ninoy’s statue was damaged by personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways while conducting road clearing operations in a bid to ease gridlock in the Timog area.

“The Aquino family has given its consent to transfer the statue to a better and more ideal location that is perfect for his stature as national hero,” Belmonte said.

“They have no problem about the transfer because it will be for the greater good of everyone who are affected by the heavy traffic in the area,” she added.

The city government is now arranging the transfer of Ninoy’s statue to several possible relocation sites, including the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center and the Manila Seedling Bank property owned by the wealthy Ayala clan.

Ex-President “Noynoy” Aquino prefers the statue to be transferred to the park named after his father, but Kris wants it to be moved to the Ayala property.

The city government has already written Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to request the relocation of Ninoy’s statue to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife, which borders the Quezon Memorial Circle, Belmonte said.