

QC warns of feeding pigs swill from hospital leftovers

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The Quezon City Veterinary Office has warned the city's hog raisers anew that pigs fed with swill from hospital leftovers may cause animal diseases amid the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF).

City head Veterinarian Dr. Ana Marie Cabel stressed the strong possibility that bacteria and parasite ingested by pigs came from the swill from hospital food that are not cooked right. The city's veterinary department has intensified their watch over ASF disease which has spread in some Quezon City barangays specifically in Barangay Payatas.

Mayor Joy Belmonte warned unscrupulous groups selling food waste as swill of serious repercussion insisting that this is against the law.

The mayor said she would not have second thoughts in having the stubborn groups arrested and criminally prosecuted for selling food waste as swill food.

Belmonte cited Sec. 83 (b) of the Sanitation code, which mandates that leftovers must be disposed through the city collection service or through methods approved by the local health authority.

"Violators may be charged with a crime and imprisoned for up to 6 months under Sec. 103(a) of the Sanitation code," she said.

It can be recalled that Negros Oriental Representative Arnolfo Teves in a hearing asked concerned government agencies to look into the practice of swill feeding because it could spread disease.

The Department of Agriculture even noted that swill food is being eyed as one of the sources of ASF in the country.

But meat importers and meat processors stressed that smuggled meat is the cause of the ASF scare in some parts of the country.

"Imported pork, which is legally imported, cannot be the source of ASF infection. The source of ASF infection can only be from smuggled, illegal, and undocumented entry of foreign meat," Jesus Cham, president of the Meat Importers Traders Association, noted.