

Quezon City is most competitive HUC

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

Quezon City has made it to the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) Hall of Fame after being named the overall most competitive Highly Urbanized City (HUC) for the fourth year.

Manila ranked second in terms of HUC competitiveness, followed by Davao City in third place. Antipolo City topped the overall most competitive Component City (CC), with Calamba and Santa Rosa, both in Laguna, took second and third places, respectively.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) hailed the highly competitive cities, municipalities, and provinces during the 7th edition of the CMCI, wherein

the local government units' efforts to enhance their competitiveness at the local and regional levels were recognized.

"I am glad to hear that more and more local government units (LGUs) are seeing the importance of the CMCI project," said DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez.

"The CMCI now has 1,518 cities and municipalities, from 122 cities and 163 municipalities in its pilot run in 2013. Beyond being an annual ranking event, it is a vital opportunity for policymakers and public officials to see where things are, compare it to past performance, and relate it to the experience of other localities. As such, the program serves as a driving force to do better, to be more innovative, and to utilize and manage resources more effectively," he added.

Meanwhile, Cainta, Rizal reclaimed its top spot as overall most competitive 1st-2nd Class Municipality, while Taytay, Rizal slipped to second spot, followed by Baliwag, Bulacan in third place. For the 3rd-6th class municipalities, Mambajao, Camiguin topped the category followed by San Remigio, Cebu (second) and Baler, Aurora (third).

The three most competitive provinces all came from the Calabarzon region, with Rizal Province winning first place for the fourth consecutive time. Laguna took second place while Cavite was third.

Most economically dynamic

The Economic Dynamism Pillar of CMCI measures the economic activity and productivity of an LGU, which

include the size and growth of the local economy (business registrations, capital, revenue, permits), capacity to generate jobs, cost of living, cost of business, etc.

Pasay City landed on the top spot in the HUC category. Davao City improved to second place, while last year's no. 1, Quezon City, dropped to third. For Component Cities, Gen. Trias, Cavite copped first place, followed by Calamba, Laguna and Batangas City, Batangas.

Plaridel, Bulacan emerged as no. 1 in the 1st-2nd class municipalities, with Sta. Maria, Bulacan coming in second and last year's top performer Cainta, Rizal coming in third. Mambajao, Camiguin led the honors among the 3rd-6th class municipalities, followed by Bacolor,

Pampanga and Alfonso Lista, Ifugao.

Most efficient

Under the Government Efficiency Pillar, the competitiveness of LGUs is determined through the reliability and quality of government support for effective and sustainable expansion, and absence of corruption.

In this pillar, Quezon City ranked best in the HUC category followed by City of Manila and Davao City. For the Component Cities, Antipolo, Rizal is No. 1, while last year's top LGU Tagum City eased to No. 2, followed by Sta. Rosa, Laguna at No. 3. Cainta, Rizal reclaimed top rank in the 1st-2nd class municipalities, while Taytay, Rizal and Silang, Cavite landed on second and third places, respectively.