

QC buildings up for inspection – Belmonte

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Quezon City Mayor **Joy Belmonte** has ordered the inspection of buildings in the city to ensure public safety in case of a strong earthquake.

Following the swarm of strong earthquakes in Mindanao, the latest of which was a magnitude 6.5 that struck on Thursday, Belmonte met with local government officials to discuss proactive measures to prepare for a tremor.

“Earthquakes can strike anytime and anywhere. So it’s better to be proactive and prepared for any eventuality,” she said. “We have nothing to lose but everything to gain if we prepare. It is better to prepare rather than regret not doing anything.”

During the meeting, the mayor directed the **Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council** to check the fault markers painted along Barangays Bagong Silangan and Ugong Norte, and to ensure that residents there are regularly reminded that they live near a fault.

Belmonte also ordered the inspection of structures, especially in areas that may sustain the most impact in case of a strong quake.

“I ordered the **engineering department** to check on the integrity of structures such as public buildings and schools within the vicinity of the fault lines and conduct repair and retrofitting if needed,” she said.

The **Department of Building Official** will inspect the structural integrity of private buildings and structures near the faults to ensure they can withstand a powerful tremor.

City building officials are also tasked to check on informal settlers living near fault lines and relocate them to a safer location if needed.

Belmonte reminded the residents to prepare emergency kits and assign meeting points or evacuation sites during an earthquake.

Residents are also urged to check their homes for possible structural damage and secure heavy appliances or furnishings that could fall and cause accidents. –