

Belmonte cautions on kidnapping rumor

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Following online posts of alleged kidnapping incidents of children in Quezon City, Mayor Joy Belmonte exhorted the public to cease from sharing unverified reports to prevent unnecessary panic.

In a Facebook post, the mayor admitted that she met with Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Brig. Gen. Ronnie Montejo to verify the news.

“For the information of our citizens, I spoke to QCPD chief B/Gen Montejo as soon as I read the first post. I also spoke to him first thing this morning. He says no reports have come in to the QCPD of kidnappings of any kind and the only one he is aware of is a kidnapping in Pasay City. The news media is also silent on this matter,” Belmonte said.

Apparently, the news of kidnapping has frightened many concerned parents from leaving their houses for fear of being victimized by criminal elements.

“I urge our citizens to stop spreading unconfirmed news because you are causing unnecessary panic,” she stressed.

“In the absence of confirmation of any kind, please remain calm and refrain from causing unnecessary anxiety among our people by spreading hearsay. This is very irresponsible and itself a public menace,” she added.

The mayor said she is closely coordinating with QCPD on the matter.

“Meanwhile if you have first-hand information about any such incident, please report this ASAP to our QCPD or/and to me for immediate action. Gen Montejo has promised to report to me after he has conducted a thorough investigation of these supposedly massive kidnappings,” Belmonte said.

“In the spirit of transparency, I assure you I will be the first to report to you if these alleged kidnapping cases have been validated,” she added.

Quezon City police arrested nine suspects in separate buy-bust operations last Saturday. The District Drug Enforcement Unit (DDEU) arrested Bimbo Pelejotes, 50, at about 4 p.m. on 30 November at Sitio Paho, Barangay Baesa.

Seized from him were seven sachets of shabu worth of P68,000 and the buy-bust money and drug paraphernalia.

Suspect Daniel Gonzales, 25, was arrested by the Novaliches Police Station at about 7:40 p.m. at Barangay Capri, Novaliches. Confiscated were five sachets of shabu and the buy-bust money.

The Fairview Police Station collared Ronald McDonald, 35, Francis Ponce, 32, Jerry Lioba, 39 and Roberto Caro, 49, at about 10:45 p.m. at Maligaya Park Subdivision, Barangay Pasong Putik.

Found in their possession were 15 sachets of shabu worth about P27,480, the buy-bust money and a cellular phone. Also seized was a motorcycle.

The Cubao Police Station collared Jaime Sanchez, 46 at about 8:20 p.m. at Confiado Apartelle along Aurora Boulevard, Barangay Immaculate Concepcion. Taken from him were 13 sachets of shabu worth about P7,500, the buy-bust money and a cellular phone.

Suspect Ronnie Sendin, 36, was arrested at about 12:15 a.m. at Barangay Socorro. Confiscated were five sachets of shabu and the buy-bust money.

Anonas Police Station nabbed Erick Samijon, 31, at about 6:20 p.m. at Barangay Old Capitol Site.

Seized were two sachets of shabu and the buy-bust money.

The suspects will be charged for violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.