

QC is free from ASF?

The city has extended P16.9 million in financial assistance to affected backyard hog raisers

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The Quezon City local government has extended P16.9 million in financial assistance to hog raisers, as Mayor Joy Belmonte declared the spread of the African swine fever (ASF) virus has been contained. Belmonte made the announcement during the recent Local Health Board meeting. As of Friday, 13 December, there were no new infections and no new ASF-related deaths the past 30 days.

She attributes this development to the concerted effort to prevent the spread of the illness among hogs. However, she admits the challenge is to prevent the recurrence among the city's backyard swine growers. "This experience teaches us the lesson that transparency and allowing the people to participate in solving our problems bring good, rather than hiding the problem from them," Belmonte said. So far, a total of P16.9 million worth of financial assistance has been given to backyard hog raisers affected by ASF. This covered 5,824 pigs which were culled since the first incident of ASF from floating dead pigs was reported in Barangay Silangan. Upon the mayor's instruction, the local government extended P3,000 cash assistance for every pig voluntarily surrendered for culling in infected areas. By February 2020, the Quezon City government will prohibit backyard piggeries and poultries in all barangays through an ordinance, according to city veterinarian Dr. Ana Marie Cabel. Cabel said they have met with all the barangay officials, and they already know about this proposed ordinance. She added the local government has allowed backyard raisers to sell or dispose of the pigs in time for the Christmas season. The mayor has instructed the Small Business Development and Promotions Office to assist backyard hog raisers in starting alternative livelihood programs. "We will endorse these hog raisers to the Small Business Development and Promotions Office for alternative livelihood programs," Belmonte said.