

ASF now contained in QC — Belmonte

The Philippine Star · 15 Dec 2019 · 14 · By JANVIC MATEO

The spread of African swine fever (ASF) has been contained in Quezon City, with Mayor Joy Belmonte noting that no new case has been reported in the past 30 days. In a statement this week, the mayor said that the disinfection process in the affected barangays will continue until the end of the year.

“This is a result of our collective action against ASF. However, the challenge is still there to make sure that this will not happen again,” said Belmonte in Filipino.

“This experience teaches us the lesson that transparency and allowing the people to participate in solving our problems brings good, rather than hiding the problem from them,” she added.

According to the city government, it has already distributed around P16.9 million worth of financial assistance to backyard hog raisers affected by ASF.

Belmonte said a total of 5,824 pigs were culled since the first ASF case was reported in Barangay Bagong Silangan in September.

Pigs also tested positive in Barangays Payatas, Tatalon, Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo, Commonwealth, Old Balara and UP Campus.

Upon Belmonte’s instruction, the city government extended P3,000 cash assistance for every pig voluntarily surrendered for culling by backyard hog raisers 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 Ana Marie Cabel.

“We already met with barangays and they already know about this proposed ordinance,” said Cabel, adding that the city government has allowed backyard raisers to sell or dispose of the pigs in time for the Christmas season.

Belmonte has instructed the Small Business Development and Promotions Office to assist backyard hog raisers in starting alternative livelihood programs.