

# Swine flu contained in QC – Belmonte

QUEZON City Mayor Josefina Belmonte said the city had controlled the spread of the African swine fever (ASF) virus with no new positive blood tests reported since November 13 and no ASF-related deaths in the past 30 days.

*"Ito'y resulta ng sama-sama nating pagkilos upang labanan ang ASF. Subalit nariyan pa rin ang hamon upang matiyak na ito'y hindi na mauulit pa (This is the result of our collective efforts to fight ASF virus. But the challenge is still there and we have to make sure that this would not happen again)."*

Belmonte said.

The city government distributed around P16.9 million worth of financial assistance to backyard hog raisers affected by ASF. It also paid P3,000 for every pig voluntarily surrendered for culling. So far, around 5,824 pigs have been culled.

City Veterinarian Ana Marie Cabel said the local government would pass an ordinance in February 2020 that will prohibit backyard piggeries and poultry farms in all villages.

*"Na-meet na natin ang lahat ng barangay (We have met all the villages) and they already know about this proposed ordinance,"* Cabel said.

Belmonte has instructed the Small Business Development and Promotions Office to help backyard hog raisers start alternative livelihood programs.

*"We will endorse these hog raisers to the Small Business Development and Promotions Office for alternative livelihood programs,"* she said.

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