

# Quezon City to lead Chinese New Year festivities

THE Quezon City government will host the Chinese New Year celebration to usher in the "Year of the Rat" on January 26 in Banawe Street.

Banawe Street has been designated by the city government as the "Chinatown of Quezon City" in 2013 and branded it as a world-class hub for the Chinese community as well as a tourism district.

*Feng shui* experts have said the street is "an area of prosperity."

Mayor Josefina Belmonte will lead the celebration with China's Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian as guest of honor.

Among the activities lined up are the traditional dragon and lion dance performances, Chinese music and arts activities, and a wushu martial arts exhibition to highlight the rich Chinese culture.

The city's very own Symphonic Band will also perform various musical renditions.

To spice up the festivities, a Chinese deli food and trade bazaar and traditional Chinese cooking demonstrations will be held.

Renowned Feng Shui Master Rev. Fr. Wong Seng Tian will also give his predictions for the

Chinese New Year.

A fireworks display, followed by a grand concert of the Climax Band and singer Rico Blanco will cap the celebration.

Expected guests are Quezon City Association of Filipino Chinese Businessmen Inc. President Joseph Lim Bon Huan and QC Chinatown Development Foundation Chairman Charles Chen.

Meanwhile, in a news conference on Friday, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. President Dr. Henry Lim Bon Liong said the Chinese community would invest more and encourage fellow entrepreneurs here and abroad to do more business in the Philippines.

"We, members of the Filipino Chinese community, are filled with much high hopes and optimism for a better Philippine future as we welcome the Chinese Lunar New Year despite some recent challenges like the Taal Volcano problems, earthquakes, typhoons, etc.," Liong said.

"Our federation is committed to do more in pursuing our diverse economic and sociocivic advocacies," he added.

FRANZ LEWIN EMBUDO



**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE METAL RAT** Ma. Teresa Tirona of the Quezon City Tourism Department (2nd from left) and Henry Lim Bon Liong, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (left), hold a press conference in Quezon City on Friday to discuss the activities during the Chinese New Year celebration, ushering in the Year of the Metal Rat on January 26. PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ