Drivers offered livelihood options

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The Quezon City local government has confiscated 130 kuligligs or improvised tractor-trikes plying the EDSA-Balintawak area as part of its crackdown on colorum vehicles.

The clearing operations, led by the Task Force for Transport and Traffic Management (TFTTM), on the city's thorough fares started in November last year. All the apprehended drivers were initially given warnings.

City officials said they deferred the strict implementation of the order last year because of the Christmas holiday. However, the drivers can no longer argue losing a means of livelihood, because the city has support programs available for them. In a dialogue with the drivers, city officials offered three kinds of livelihood assistance as the banning of kuligligs along thorough fares is implemented. They can avail of the "Balik Probinsya" program, where they can reclaim their sidecars and use them to earn a livelihood in their respective hometowns.