

- Mayor

# QC hikes city workers' wages

By Rio N. Araja

**Q**UEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte has signed a memorandum increasing the monthly salary of city hall's contractual and job-order employees to a "livable" rate of at least P13,000 by March.

The city government has allocated P201 million for the implementation of the wage increase.

"It is our responsibility, especially us in the government to adhere to the law and give our employees dignified and equitable working conditions. All workers must have the capability to buy their basic needs," Belmonte said.

She said 4,359 contractual personnel and job order employees under the city's executive department "will be remunerated at least P13,000 per month."

The legal minimum pay is prescribed by the Department of Labor and Employment.

According to Belmonte, the decision was reached after reviewing the city hall's roster of human resources, and discovering that some employees are getting as low as P8,000 despite working for 40 hours or more a week, particularly community health workers.

She lamented that some vacant positions in health centers do not get filled because of low wage rates.

The circular aims to uplift the quality

of living among its citizens, including the city employees, and to promote professionalism.

Under Memorandum Circular No. 4 of 2020, non-plantilla contractual and job order personnel who are classified as administrative, clerical, and non-technical employees and who work up to 40 hours a week will get P13,000 per month.

Professional-technical employees, such as nurses, medical technologists, veterinarians, computer programmers and accountants, shall receive P20,000 per month, while the professional-highly technical personnel, such as lawyers and doctors, will be paid P35,000 per month.

"We will offer competitive rates that are at par with the private sector to encourage more applicants who possess remarkable qualities and who will be valuable assets to our city," the city mayor said.