

QC OPENS CONDIMENT REFILL STATION

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THE Quezon City government has launched its first condiments refilling station to help address plastic pollution in the city as part of its commitment to environmental sustainability.

QC Small Business and Cooperatives Development Promotions Office (SBCDPO) opened the Bring Your Own Bote (BYOB) Store as a zero-waste facility, where residents can bring their own reusable bottles and refill them with condiments such as vinegar, soy sauce and cooking oil.

Mayor Josefina Belmonte said the initiative is part of the city's commitment to environmental sustainability.

The BYOB store, located inside the Quezon City Hall compound, was also launched in partnership with food manufacturer NutriAsia Inc. and the QC Environment Protection and Waste Management Department.

"We are glad that NutriAsia chose us to be the first local government unit to engage within this eco-friendly initiative," Belmonte said.

Consumers can bring their reusable, clean and food-safe containers at the BYOB store and have it refilled with condiments from 200 grams up to 2 kilograms at an affordable price. The store is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Mondays to Fridays.

Belmonte recently approved Ordinance 2876, which prohibits the use and distribution of single-use plastics and other disposable materials.

Restaurants and hotels are mandated to fully comply with the said Ordinance by July 2020. SBCDPO head Mona Celine Yap said she is optimistic that this initiative would increase environmental consciousness of the public.

The BYOB Store also has a plastic collection drop box for discarded plastic bottles, containers, sachets, snack packs, plastic utensils and other plastic materials.