

QC lifts order vs MRT-7 work

Daily Tribune (Philippines) · 29 Feb 2020 · A8 · @tribunephil_jc PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

The Quezon City local government has lifted the cease and desist order it had earlier issued on the construction of the Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT-7) Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) station yesterday.

This comes after the QC government and its stakeholders — environmentalists, representatives from the National Housing Authority, engineers, residents — have approved the new design of the station, which was presented by San Miguel Corporation (SMC) and EEI Corporation.

The **Office of the Quezon City Mayor** said the cease and desist order was lifted after their concerns received attention.

It added that it was happy to preserve Quezon Memorial Circle and, at the same time, succeeded in ensuring that the public will have adequate mass transportation.

Department of Transportation (DoTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade said this endeavor testifies that when the national government, local government and private sector collaborate, things will be solved and improved swiftly.

“What this exercise shows is that when the national government, local government and the private sector work together and cooperate, all with the same obsession — all for transparency and development — things will be solved and improved swiftly,” Tugade said.

From the initial design of 11,000 square meters (sqm) above ground, it has been agreed that the latest and final design will just be a 426 sqm above ground structure, with a height of only six to seven meters.

Meanwhile, SMC MRT-7 Project Director Carmela Bergado has assured the local government and the stakeholders that they “will follow the redesigned and final plan.”

DoTr Undersecretary Timothy Batan assured the construction works for the MRT-7 project is on track, with partial operability to commence by 2021, and full revenue service by 2022.

Once completed by 2022, the MRT-7 will cut travel time from Manila to Bulacan from two hours to just 34 minutes. JC