

QC care facilities give hope to COVID patients

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For the people behind the temporary isolation facilities established in Quezon City, patients under treatment for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) need more than just medical attention to recover from the illness. They also need hope.

Last week, four patients were greeted with applause as they emerged victorious after weeks-long battle with the viral disease.

Days before that, it was the medical workers of the isolation facility – aptly named HOPE – who took care of the patients and provided for their needs. “From now on, you will forever be part of my life,” wrote one of the patients in Filipino at the dedicated board at the Hope 1 facility. “Thank you for guiding us. I hope you can help more people,” wrote another patient. Vince Mendoza, who heads the Hope 1 facility, said the discharged patients have tested negative for the virus. They will still undergo home quarantine for 14 days and have been advised to have a follow-up examination.

“The number is still considerable – worthy of quiet applause to motivate our workforce. This is our start. This is our victory,” he said. “The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. There will be setbacks and false starts but we as a people will get there,” added the doctor.

Anticipating an increase in the number of COVID-19 patients in the country, the Quezon City government was among the first to open a separate isolation facility to support local hospitals. By mid-March, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said they had secured a partnership with a hotel in the city to serve as the first isolation facility, to be called Hope 1.

“Hope 1 has 49 rooms to isolate and monitor identified persons under investigation (PUIs) and COVID-19 patients,” she said. “These are individuals with symptoms associated to the virus, has history of travel in countries with confirmed local transmission or with close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.”

While PUIs and COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms can isolate in their homes, Belmonte noted that there are residents who live in houses that would not enable them to do so.

By moving them into a dedicated isolation facility, she said the patients could receive the medical attention they need while at the same minimizing exposure of other people to the virus.