

QC official clarifies report about unclaimed cadavers

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An official of the Quezon City government has clarified a party-list congressman's accusation over supposedly uncollected cadavers of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients in a government hospital in the city.

According to **assistant city administrator for operations** Alberto Kimpo, the lawmaker should have verified his facts first with the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) before making his allegation. Kimpo said the LCP failed to inform the local government about 12 unclaimed cadavers in its facility.

“As per its protocol, the LCP only releases bodies that are claimed by a relative. However, it appeared that no relatives were coming forward to claim the bodies,” he explained. Upon hearing reports about the unclaimed corpses, the city government reached out to the LCP and requested for the contact information of family members to have them claim the bodies.

Local officials said they discovered that only five of the 12 deceased COVID-19 patients were Quezon City residents. “The cadavers of all QC residents have been claimed and released as of Saturday,” Kimpo said.

Carol Patalinghog, assistant chief of the welfare and relief division of the city's Social Services and Development Department, said the SSDD provides free funeral and cremation to poor residents who died of COVID-19 through funeral parlors accredited by the local government.

“Since the city is shouldering the expenses for funeral and cremation services, it would be for the best interest of the local government if it requires funeral shops to get accreditation,” Patalinghog said.

She added funeral parlors need to seek accreditation for health and safety purposes.

It was discovered that Light Funeral Homes (LFH) is not accredited by the local government and operates without a business permit. As a Category 3 funeral shop, the LFH has a sanitary permit for office operations only.