

# Rejecting COVID-19 bodies no-no in QC

**By Rio N. Araja**

THE 37-member Quezon City council has passed an ordinance sanctioning funeral parlors and crematoriums that would reject cadavers of victims of the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) or charge higher service fees from the families of the deceased.

“Under this ordinance, funeral homes and crematoriums cannot reject remains of deceased COVID-19 patients due to fear of infection or other unjustifiable reasons,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

The measure also prohibits funeral homes and crematoriums from increasing service fees compared to their prices prior to the declaration of the community quarantine on March 12.

“This is to protect grieving families of deceased COVID-19 victims from unscrupulous funeral parlors or crematoriums that may take advantage of the situation,” Belmonte said.

Funeral parlors and crematoriums that would violate the ordinance could face a maximum fine of P5,000 per violation and subsequent revocation of their business permit.

The ordinance mandates local hospitals and health care facilities within Quezon City to observe the mandatory cremation of COVID-19 patients within 12 hours from time of death so as to avoid the spread of the virus, among others.