

# QC sets strict social distancing measure

**By Rio N. Araja**

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Wednesday ordered the strict implementation of social distancing and other precautionary measures, such as sanitation procedures in all city-run and private markets.

She told private market owners and their stall owners to be responsible in managing the volume of market-goers inside their establishments at any given time to ensure that proper social distancing is observed.

“We understand that our residents still need to go out and buy their essentials, such as food. That’s why we make sure to keep them safe by enforcing the protocols of social distancing and the wearing of face masks,” she said.

All city markets will be open for business from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.

Assistant City administrator for operations Alberto Kimpo said all eight public markets and 73 private markets as well as flea markets have been instructed to compute their vacant space or walkway-to-per-individual ratio of at least one square meter per person to be observed.

“If their walkway has a size of 20 square meters, therefore only 20 people must be allowed inside. We have instructed market owners to be responsible enough to implement order when people enter their place,” he said.

(Ret.) Col. Procopio Lipana, the city Market Development and Administration Department head for operations, ordered the implementation of a single entry and single exit point in every market to prevent mass entry, and that sinks, clean water and alcohol for handwashing must be made available and placed near the entrances and exits.