

QC cracks down on erring traders

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THE Quezon City government issued notices of violation to vendors in public and private markets who overprice their products and use “fraudulent” weighing scales amid the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Procorpio Lipana, head of the City’s **Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD)**, said the local government issued from March 17 to April 28 a total of 211 notices of violation for 249 infractions that also included the absence of price tags.

Of the total, about 109 cases involved the use of fraudulent weighing scales and 90 for overpricing.

“We give vendors a chance to explain their pricing because prices now are affected due to supply issues. If proven as overpricing, they will need to pay the corresponding penalty when they renew their business permit,” Lipana said.

“The MDAD also confiscates fraudulent weighing scales and have them recalibrated, but vendors have to pay the penalty as well,” he added.

QC **Mayor Josefina Belmonte** has ordered the MDAD to regularly inspect the city’s public and private markets, as well as its talipapa (wet markets) to guard against overpricing amid the enhanced community quarantine.

“I have ordered the MDAD to keep a close watch on all markets, whether private or public, to ensure that vendors follow the suggested retail prices,” she said.

Lipana created four teams that would monitor various markets in the city’s six districts for violations and to ensure that physical distancing protocols were enforced.

The city government recently installed closed-circuit television cameras in different markets to monitor if physical distancing was being strictly followed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Lipana urged illegal vendors to join the city government’s Fresh Market on Wheels, so they can sell their products in various villages legally.