

## Belmonte orders probe on SAP anomaly

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has ordered an investigation of local officials over alleged irregularities in the distribution of cash assistance under the national government's social amelioration program (SAP).

Belmonte said they received numerous complaints against barangay officials regarding the P8,000 emergency cash subsidy.

The city government will issue show cause orders against barangay officials who were tagged in the anomaly, Belmonte said.

Among the complaints received by city hall include the illegal replication of SAP forms, deduction of supposed processing fees, donations and membership fees from the cash aid as well as preferential treatment for unqualified beneficiaries.

Barangay officials found liable may face charges of graft, fraud, malversation of public funds, robbery and administrative cases.

### Manila SAP distribution

In Manila, the distribution of P8,000 cash assistance per household under SAP has reached 93 percent before the deadline ends today.

Mayor Isko Moreno said of the 185,000 target families, a total of 171,961 families received cash aid as of 7 a.m. yesterday.

“So more or less we will meet the deadline,” he said.

Moreno said physical distancing and other quarantine measures were observed during the distribution of the cash assistance.

While Caloocan City is finishing the SAP distribution, the local government started giving out cash aid to 268,000 students.

The beneficiaries, from kindergarten to high school students, received P500 each.

“We continue to find ways to assist the residents affected by the pandemic,” Malapitan said.

The city government intends to accomplish the cash distribution within 15 days.