

# QC lifts liquor ban; Parañaque urges residents to 'grin, bear it'

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QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Friday issued Executive Order 31, allowing the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

But while Quezon City has allowed the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, the City of Parañaque said it has decided to extend the liquor ban until May 31, 2020.

Belmonte said the consumption of any liquor, wine, beer, or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage will only be allowed within private residences for the duration of the modified enhanced community quarantine.

Only persons, entities or establishments with valid Liquor License and Regulatory Board licenses are allowed sell or distribute liquor, wine, beer, or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverages, the mayor's order read.

On March 26, Belmonte issued Executive Order No. 24, prohibiting the sale and distribution of such products.

Supermarkets, groceries, liquor stores and other high volume retailers were directed to limit the daily purchases of alcoholic beverages

intended for personal consumption per person, such as a one-liter bottle of beer could be sold in five cases.

For example, variety stores, kiosks or other low-volume retailers are only allowed to sell a one-liter bottle of beer in 12 bottles.

A retailer must require a purchaser to present a valid government-issued identification card, a valid Business Permits and Licensing Department-issued business permit or a photocopy for purchases intended for resale or redistribution.

According to Belmonte, any person, entity or establishment found to be in violation of provisions of her order shall be meted sanctions, including but not limited to closure, suspension or revocation of its permit or license.

In the case of unlawful consumption, the violator will face possible arrest and the filing of criminal charges under Republic Act 11332 or any other applicable law or ordinance, she said.

Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez, meanwhile, said appealed to his constituents to endure a little longer as following his decision to extend the liquor ban.