

Bigger anti-drug role for LGU pushed

Sotto bill seeks creation of local anti-narcotics council

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Local government units (LGU) should be empowered to be at the forefront of the government campaign against illegal drugs.

With the rationale, Senate President Vicente Sotto III filed Senate Bill (SB) 1935 to seek the creation of Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (ADAC) in all LGU across the nation.

Sotto said the councils will be tasked to establish holistic approaches to countering the drug menace, including putting in place prevention programs, narcotics supply reduction and effective rehabilitation of drug dependents.

He said it's not enough for the various LGU to just get the "substantial portion" of their annual budgets from the national government as provided under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

"All LGU should have an effective council that will focus on its anti-illegal drugs program such as the **Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC)**, which I founded when I was still Vice Mayor of Quezon City," he said.

"Last year, the Department of the Interior and Local Government has named QCADAAC as the most effective anti-drug abuse advisory group in the country," he added.

Sotto also said that the ADAC will be the "main implementing organs for the prevention, rehabilitation and monitoring of drug dependency cases."

According to Section 5 of SB 1935, the ADAC will be tasked to formulate a Local Anti-Drug Plan which will contain list of programs and activities with corresponding budgetary requirements and timeline.