

QC 'rescues' 340 minors, shuts 'tiangges' for allowing entry of below-18 customers

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STEPPING up its campaign to keep minors off the streets amid the pandemic, the **Quezon City government** has rescued 340 minors spotted in public places and shut down several establishments for allowing the entry of minors.



"This city is serious in implementing health rules to keep the youths safe from the grip of the virus," stressed **Mayor Joy Belmonte** in Filipino.

She added: "Let's not forget that the virus still lurks in our midst not mentioning the risks and dangers that go with it, especially this holiday season when people tend to go out and congregate."

Belmonte recently approved an ordinance banning minors in all public places, whether alone or accompanied by parent or guardian, without any justification, to stop the spread of Covid-19.

In a report by action officer Rannie Ludovica of the **Quezon City Task Force Disiplina**, they have "rescued" 340 minors in a massive operation together with the **Quezon City Police District's** District Mobile Force Battalion to monitor the presence of minors in public places.

The **Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD)**, for its part, ordered the temporary closure of several tiangges in Robinsons Novaliches for accepting minors.

According to Ludovica, all rescued minors were brought to Centris Command post for the profiling of their parents, while some were turned over to their respective barangays for counseling of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

The Task Force also issued Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVR) to parents or guardians of rescued minors, as mandated by Ordinance SP-2985, S-2020, or the "Quezon City Special Protection of Children against Covid-19."

"Ipinapaliwanag namin sa kanila na dahil malakas ang bata, maaaring wala silang symptoms pero carrier sila ng sakit. Kapag lumabas sila at pumunta in public places, puwede na sila maging superspreader at ito ang iniwasan nating mangyari," Ludovica stressed.

Ludovica added that parents must be aware of their children's whereabouts at all times and not use them as excuse to escape punishment.

"We are closely monitoring malls and tiangges na bukas ngayong holiday dahil patok itong puntahan ng mga kabataan," said Ludovica.

Likewise, citizens are encouraged to report minors and parents violating the ordinance through the complaint-reporting platform, Qcitizen Watch on the Official QC web site <https://qceservices.quezoncity.gov.ph/>.

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte