

Barangay men axed over Christmas party

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Several staff members of Barangay Batasan Hills in Quezon City (QC) have been removed after holding a Christmas party in violation of city and barangay guidelines being implemented as part of mandatory health protocols against the coronavirus disease.

In a letter dated 23 December, barangay chairman Jojo Abad informed the city mayor regarding the removal of Leticia Samar, Michelle Saragcon, Ma. Elena Olesco, Nora Elizaga, Meann Ubang, Rowena Almonicar, Jocelyn Leonero, Ritchie Ancero, Manilyn Mejia, Gemma Relata, Marizen Misolas and Alejandro Cabello as barangay staff effective immediately.

The letter said, “This termination of appointment is issued against the above-mentioned names from the Office of the Chairman due to disrespect of office protocols and insubordination.”

Abad also ordered his former staff to turn over all barangay properties in their possession, such as uniform, frontliner ID and barangay radio, for proper inventory.

Abad was lauded by the city government for his quick action on the matter.

The incident was made known after some netizens called out the barangay personnel for their failure to observe social distancing, based on the pictures posted by Misolas on social media.

In a social media post, Misolas admitted she invited a team of barangay employees and volunteers for dinner and some drinks.

However, she insisted they followed the necessary health protocols, especially the 30 percent venue capacity as indicated in the localized guidelines issued by the city government. However, the city guidelines referred to essential work-related gatherings such as conferences, training and workshops.

As for social distancing, Misolas admitted they failed to exercise social distancing for several moments during their picture-taking session.