

## 111 QC vendors face probe for overpricing

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QUEZON City's **Market Development and Administration Department ( MDAD)** issued notices of violation to 111 market vendors because of overpricing.

Procopio Lipana, MDAD's head of operations, said the vendors' cases would be endorsed to the Department of Agriculture for proper investigation.

The local government has no jurisdiction over agriculture traders.

"The usual alibi of market vendors is that the price of goods they get from traders was already high, that is why we will closely coordinate with the agriculture department to go after these wholesalers especially when they come from the city," Lipana said.

He added that the MDAD had also forwarded the receipts of transactions between the market vendors and agricultural traders to the Agriculture department as additional evidence.

**Mayor Josefina Belmonte** authorized the MDAD to conduct daily monitoring of retail and wholesale market prices to stop overcharging.

"We want to make sure that the prices of commodities being sold in the city's markets are within the SRP because we cannot allow unscrupulous traders to take advantage of the hardships being experienced by the residents amid the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

The MDAD also regularly checks and confiscates unsealed or uncalibrated weighing scales.

Last year, MDAD confiscated 263 defective weighing scales and issued 282 notices of violations to vendors who failed to put price tags on their goods and 128 notices of violation for overpricing, Lipana said.