

## QC, DA distribute aquaculture kits to ASF-affected hog raisers

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The **Quezon City government** has partnered with the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the implementation of an aquaculture project to provide livelihood to hog raisers affected by African swine fever (ASF) in 2019.



**Mayor Joy Belmonte** yesterday led the turnover of the urban aquaculture starter kits to 60 identified beneficiaries from Barangay Bagong Silangan and Payatas. They received filtration systems, catfish and tilapia fingerlings and feeds good for one cycle. Under the project, vacant and abandoned pigpens of ASF-affected hog raisers will be converted into fish tanks suitable for raising tilapia and catfish. It will employ recirculating aquaculture system, which will ensure maintenance of good water quality for faster fish growth.

Belmonte said urban aquaculture project will help boost local food supply in the city amid the pandemic.

“We must put empty pigpens and vacant lots to good use by turning them into fish pens and backyard fishponds where we can grow tilapia and hito,” she said.

“Through this, we could provide livelihood to our hog raisers who lost their primary source of income because of ASF,” she added.

DA Undersecretary for fisheries Marie Natividad-Caballero and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources national director Eduardo Gongona joined the mayor during the turnover.

According to the city government, the project is estimated to produce 1.58 metric tons of catfish and 1.29 metric tons of tilapia per cycle.