

QC takes action against manning agency

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The **Quezon City local government** is set to file charges against another manning agency for its failure to help a worker who tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) while awaiting overseas deployment.

Left with no other choice, the patient from Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu used public transportation to travel to Quezon City Hall to seek assistance from the **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO)**.

City Legal Officer Atty. Orlando Casimiro said the QC government will press charges against Staffhouse Manpower Office for violation of Republic Act 11332, or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act.

“The city government will also file a complaint before the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration against the company, being a manpower agency sending Filipinos abroad,” Casimiro said.

The LGU also ordered the **Business Permits and Licensing Department** to cancel the business permit of the Quezon City-based manpower firm.

“I have ordered our city legal to leave no stone unturned to guarantee that this manning agency is punished to the full extent of the law,” the city official stated.

The patient has been staying in Quezon City since 21 February while awaiting deployment abroad.

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On 18 March 2021, he underwent an RT-PCR test at De los Santos Hospital with 20 other Staffhouse applicants.

After receiving a positive result the following day, his fellow workers asked him to leave the house where he was staying and look for another place to stay.

The patient sought help from the manning agency, but he was told to go home. At this point, he decided to seek help from Quezon City hall.

The QC DRRMO has taken him to a quarantine facility via ambulance.

Last month, the local government sued a recruitment agency for bringing a Covid-19 positive patient to an apartment in Commonwealth Avenue without informing authorities.