

## 72 wedding feast guests infected

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The **Quezon City government** has started a probe on the holding of a wedding party that involved liquor intake in Matandang Balara in Quezon City which resulted to 72 residents acquiring the lethal coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).



Based on a report by the **City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU)**, a total of 255 residents of Area 7, Matandang Balara were swabbed and among them, 72 were confirmed positive.

“Most of our patients are currently admitted in different HOPE community care facilities while there are others isolated in their homes. Among those who are placed under home quarantine are five minors, one pregnant adult, and one senior citizen,” CESU Chief Dr. Rolando Cruz said.

Subjects of the probe were Barangay Captain Allan Franza and Homeowners Association president Don Brabante after they failed to bar the event or report it to authorities.

The **City Legal Department** was directed to investigate. “We are noticing that these kinds of incidents are increasing. The spread could’ve been prevented but we see that some people, including persons in authority, have started to become lax in the enforcement and practice of minimum health protocols,” the top city official said.

“This should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to remain vigilant and wary of Covid-19. The virus is still very much in our environment and we are counting on everyone’s cooperation,” according to the local executive.

Show-cause order sent

Franza was issued a show-cause order directing him to explain his reason for his inaction or he faces criminal and administrative cases.

Homeowners Association president Brabante, meanwhile, was charge for violation of health protocols and permitting a social gathering beyond what is allowable by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

If it will be proven that Brabante had approved the gathering and the drinking session that followed the wedding where he failed to enforce health and safety protocols, or did not even report the assembly to authorities as referenced by one of the index cases, then he can be held criminally liable. The same is true for Franza.