

## Makati gets highest CoA rating

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Makati City has set a new record among local government units (LGU) for having obtained the highest rating from the Commission on Audit (CoA), getting an "unmodified opinion" for a fourth straight year.

Mayor Abby Binay expressed elation over the news as CoA cited the city's consistent compliance with auditing rules and procedures.

In a letter to the mayor dated 16 June 2021, CoA director Omar Roque affirmed that Makati's 2020 financial statements were "in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards."

"This latest achievement is immensely gratifying, and does justice to all the efforts of the city government to keep transactions and spending above board at the height of the pandemic," Mayor Abby said.

"We made sure that even our emergency purchases for Covid-19 response were done by the book. We also prioritized our fund allocations to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable sectors severely affected by the crisis," she added.

Mayor Abby thanked CoA for its "fair and impartial" evaluation of the city's financial statements since she came on board in 2016. The city earned the first "unqualified opinion" in 2017, the first full year of Mayor Abby in office.

The term has since been changed to "unmodified opinion."

Among the reforms undertaken was the establishment of a business one-stop shop on the ground floor of Makati City Hall Building II.

The office serves as a common site to process applications and payments and issue licenses, clearances and permits.

Makati also pursued a "no-contact" policy to eliminate fixers and minimize corruption, particularly in the processing of business permits.

Currently being developed is an enhanced business permit and licensing system or e-BPLS, a computerized system that will provide easy access to business permits through different platforms.

The city has posted a two-digit increase in revenue collections in 2017 for the first time after 12 years of one-digit gains. The city has also consistently surpassed its revenue targets for the past four years.

In 2017, Makati reclaimed its title as the country's richest LGU after its assets reached P196.57 billion that year. As of 2019, Makati remained the richest locality with assets valued at P233.78 billion in CoA's annual financial report.

Meanwhile, the **Quezon City government** has also earned an "unmodified opinion," the first time it has earned that audit rating from CoA.

"This is the most important recognition that a local government unit like us can get. This is a validation of our efforts for good governance in Quezon City, and this is also a welcome surprise since we received this in our first term," QC Mayor Joy Belmonte said.