

Quezon City vaccinates 1m residents: Mayor

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MANILA: Officials of suburban Quezon City in Metro Manila on Thursday reported they administered a total of one million vaccine jabs to residents which put them within reach of achieving their target of “population protection” this year against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Joy Belmonte cited official data from city health officials that as of Tuesday, they succeeded in providing COVID-19 shots to a total of 1.013 million individuals. They included 686,311 residents as well as frontline medical workers such as doctor and nurses, 327,677 of whom have received their first doses in the more than 50 vaccination centres. Belmonte said the number of those who received their first doses represented over 40 per cent of the “population protection” target of 1.7 million out of the total estimated three million residents in the city.

Quezon City, named after the late Philippine commonwealth president Manuel L Quezon, is one of the 16 cities and one town that compose Metro Manila, officially known as the National Capital Region, with a total population of more than 13 million. One of the highlights since Quezon City joined the national inoculation campaign against COVID-19 on March 1, Belmonte said, was the record high of more than 45,000 shots achieved in one day on June 23.

She pointed out that the more than one million doses administered, probably the highest in Metro Manila, was due to the “whole of city approach” which City Hall adopted to encourage more people to be vaccinated.

“The key (to the success),” Belmonte said, “has been a whole of city approach where all stakeholders, public and private, join hands to collaborate on this programme. Through this, we are confident we will reach our goal of population protection in the coming month as soon as the vaccine supply stabilises.”

Aside from the more than 50 vaccination sites, Belmonte said City Hall adopted several measures to encourage more residents to participate particularly close partnerships with business and other different sectors, home-based inoculation for bed-ridden residents, night vaccination for workers and the deployment of vaccination buses to distant “barangay” (villages).

The mayor also appealed to those already fully vaccinated to comply strictly with the basic health protocols like mandatory wearing of face mask, observance of social distancing and the ban on mass gatherings.