

PSA QC census data wanted rectified

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The Quezon City government on Thursday appealed to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to validate its 2020 census after the agency reported that the city's population grew by only 23,932 from 2015 up to last year.

Mayor Joy Belmonte claimed that the result of this census was "very impossible." She asked how it could have happened, pointing out that the population is so far removed from that gathered by the Civil Registry Department.

She was referring to the 2020 census by the PSA, where it was indicated that the city's population increased by just 23,932 or 0.17 percent "annually" from 2,936,116 to 2,960,048 in a five-year span.

Belmonte stressed that the said data was far from the 2015 projections for 2020 by statisticians that the city's population will increase by 1.17 percent per year or to 3.112 million.

Based on latest records from the City Civil Registry Department, Belmonte said there were 333,468 registered births and 115,810 deaths from 2015 to 2020.

Belmonte told the PSA: "Even if you subtract the deaths, we have a difference of more than 200,000. So the big question here is, where did PSA get their numbers?"

"There has been no mass exodus of QCitizen's from our city in the last five years as far as we know," she added.

She underscored the need for accuracy, saying the numbers presented by the PSA are not merely statistics, but will ultimately impact the services that the city provides to its citizens, especially when it comes to financial assistance provided by the national government.

"Pity the small barangays and their residents. Their funds will be reduced but the truth is that they are very much in the community," she said.

Belmonte called on PSA evaluators to closely coordinate with barangay officials after the agency reported that some barangays lost a significant portion or between 30 to 54 percent of their population.

"The buildings and houses are still there and there are ongoing constructions. Where did the man go? Unrealistic that up to 54 percent of the population vanished. And this happened in not just one barangay but multiple barangays," Belmonte said.

It was also reported that barangays were not aware that the evaluation had already been completed while some city officials attested that their places of residence weren't surveyed.

Belmonte called on members of Congress to help the city get to the bottom of this mystery. "We hope this disservice to the people of the city be given immediate attention," Belmonte said.

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