

## House probe sought on 2022 PSA census

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Quezon City lawmakers yesterday sought a congressional inquiry on the questionable 2020 census of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that showed a significant drop in the city's population growth rate in the past five years.

Quezon City Reps. Bong Suntay of District 4, Alfred Vargas of District 5 and Kit Belmonte of District 6 filed a resolution seeking an investigation in aid of legislation on the PSA census in the city that they said has “manifest errors” that could “unjustly deprive citizens of the city of much-needed government resources.”

The lawmakers agreed with Mayor Joy Belmonte that the data, unless corrected, will have an impact on social services given to the biggest and most populous city in the National Capital Region.

“These anomalous data interpretations have strong and concerning implications to Quezon City, allowing for potential adverse impacts on the delivery of services, especially on the city's pandemic response, such as the vaccine allotment from national government agencies, the provision of financial assistance under the Social Amelioration Program and the distribution of ayuda from the city government,” they pointed out.

The congressmen branded as a “clear improbability” the drop in average population growth rate in the city from 1.8 percent in the past two decades to only 0.17 percent in the last five years, or a population growth of only 23,932 from 2,936,116 in 2015 to 2,960,048 in 2020.

Citing data from the city's civil registry, which showed 300,000 births and around only 100,000 deaths in the past five years and indicated an increase of at least 6.8 percent in the population census, they said the population of Quezon City should have already reached over three million as of last year.