

QC sets charges vs firm over protocol violations

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The **Quezon City government** may sue a construction company for alleged violations of the Covid-19 protocols.

Companies in the city were also reminded by the local government unit to report suspected Covid-19 cases within their premises to help counter the spread of the respiratory disease that is now in yet another surge and overwhelming medical facilities — both public and private.

Quezon City **Mayor Joy Belmonte** has ordered City Lawyer Orlando Paolo Casimiro to file cases against Millennium Erector Corporation (MEC), which is currently undertaking the construction of Manhattan Cubao, after 57 Covid-19 cases were recorded within its premises.

“If the evidence proves that MEC was aware of its workers' situation but failed to report to the **CESU (City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit)**, then it may be held criminally liable pursuant to Section 2 of the IRR of RA 11332 or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act,” Casimiro said.

“If a company does not cooperate and causes inconvenience to the community, we will not hesitate to file a case against it,” Belmonte said.

The **Department of the Building Official (DBO)**, headed by lawyer Dale Peral, also endorsed the filing of charges against the company for ignoring a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued 26 August to halt its construction activities.

“The CDO will not be lifted until there is clearance from the CESU and DBO,” Peral said.

After the discovery of one index case on 16 August, the CESU conducted mass testing of 271 workers, 13 of whom turned out positive.

They were brought to the city's HOPE Facility. The area was also placed under Special Concern Lockdown.

On 21 August, an additional 13 positive workers were brought to the HOPE Facility. Thirty more positive cases were monitored at the site five days later.