

## Providing distance learning needs of pupils, teachers

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Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic last year, the **Quezon City local government** has been providing its students and teachers with school supplies, data allowances, tablets and laptops to support them in both blended and distance learning modalities.

The QC government has given public school teachers 3,210 laptops and a total of 16,378 prepaid SIM cards with a P1,000 monthly load allowance. In addition to this, teachers also receive a monthly cash allowance.

The city also provided free X-ray and urinalysis check-ups for 16,284 teaching and non-teaching personnel in all public elementary and high schools.

For school year 2021 to 2022, students from elementary to high school, as well as special education pupils, will all receive school supplies, while students from Grades 4 to 12 will be provided with tablets with sufficient monthly data allowance. An additional 2,383 laptops will also be distributed for teachers.

QC **Mayor Joy Belmonte** said, “To support our schools in printing and preparing modules and learning materials, the city has also turned over Risograph and photocopy machines to all public schools in QC.”

Storybooks have been given to those in kindergarten, so that their parents and guardians can use these in teaching students to read from their own homes.

According to outgoing QC Education Affairs Unit Head Aly Medalla, the city is also renovating schools in preparation for the face-to-face classes.

“Aside from the equipment and school supplies, the city is also repairing our school facilities, such as the handwashing area and comfort rooms, so that when face-to-face classes start, the city is ready,” Medalla explained.

All schools have been provided with Internet connectivity.

Further, Braille embossers were distributed to select public high schools with special programs for blind students as part of the city’s initiative for inclusive education.

Eighty-four visually impaired learners from Commonwealth Elementary School, Batino Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Rosa L. Susano Elementary School and Quirino High School have benefitted from these devices.

Meanwhile, the Quezon City Government’s Entrepreneurship and Training Centers have provided training to 1,515 QC citizens to expand their knowledge and skills for broader employment and business opportunities.

The courses include cookery, bread and pastry production, computer systems servicing, electronic product assembly servicing, shielded metal arc welding, automotive servicing, food and beverage services, massage therapy, hilot wellness massage, housekeeping, smartphone repair, dressmaking beauty care, hairdressing and basic computer literacy.