

## Quezon City celebrates its 82nd founding anniversary

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**Quezon City Foundation Day Special Supplement**

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In 1940, a physical plan of the city was prepared by Harry T. Frost, an architectural adviser of the Commonwealth. He imagined a big quadrangle in the heart of the city which four avenues diverge toward the outskirts with rotundas existing on each end, with the largest being a 26-hectare elliptical center, which we now all know as the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Quezon City or 'QC' for short was formed with the idea of replacing the city of Manila as the country's national capital as Manila was suffering from overcrowding, lack of housing, and traffic congestion. Quezon City was formally inaugurated as the national capital of the Philippines on October 12, 1949. The city held the status as the nation's capital

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benhur Abalos and QC Mayor Joy Belmonte during the inauguration of the bike lane on May 22, 2021.

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gestion. Quezon City was formally inaugurated as the national capital of the Philippines on October 12, 1949. The city held the status as the nation's capital until June 24, 1976 after then President Ferdinand Marcos issued Presidential Decree (PD) 940 which gave back the role of the nation's capital to Manila and mandated the area prescribed under PD 842 as Metropolitan Manila, now known as the National Capital Region. Today this area stands as the permanent seat of power of the national government.

The Quezon City of today is far from the Quezon City of before, being the largest city in Metro Manila and of the Philippines. It is the center of education, economic activity, healthcare, culture and religion, and is home to the entertainment and media industries. With its strategic geographical position, major broadcasting networks have built their headquarters and studios in the city, aptly calling the area "the city of stars".

Quezon City houses the legislative branch of the national government. The House of Representatives is located at the Batasang Pambansa Complex in Batasan Hills. Several government offices are also located in Quezon City including the Commission on Audit, the Civil Service Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Interior and Local Government among others.

The Department of Defense, the Office of Civil Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are also situated in Quezon City.

With healthcare at the forefront of the once nation's capital, several hospitals were built in this city. The Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, The Lung Center of the Philippines, the National Children's Hospital to name a few.

Santo Domingo Church or the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the largest church in Metro Manila, is also located in Quezon City.

Quezon City also serves as a home for the main campuses of the nation's academic pursuits, the country's premier university, University of the Philippines is located at Diliman, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College at Katipunan Ave.

Along with the modernization of the metropolis and making it more sustainable, bike lanes were introduced.

The bike lanes which initially has 55 kilometers now reach 93 km, traversing throughout Quezon City's main roads Commonwealth Ave, Quezon Ave, East Ave, and North Avenue which was inaugurated by Incumbent **Mayor Joy Belmonte** in May.

The lane extension project is the city government's commitment to providing safe passage for bikers and reduces pollution by 2030, they eye to extend the lanes to 161 kilometers.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country which has been going on until today, **QC government** has formed 11 HOPE facilities for COVID patients, and has made swab testing free for QC citizens who have symptoms or individuals exposed to a positive patient.

COVID patients were brought to the HOPE facilities for 14 days, with free accommodation and food. The city government also focused on the vaccination against COVID-19, as of October 7, 2021 the local government has already administered a total of 3,278,181 COVID jabs to residents and workers in Quezon City.

Along with the COVID-19 efforts of the city government, District 5 **Representative Alfred Vargas** has been giving relief goods and other assistance to residents most affected by the pandemic.

In October, Vargas held an online raffle for tricycle drivers, operators, senior citizens, and even students.

The winners received sacks of rice, groceries, mountain bicycles and some students received a tablet for distance learning.

In October, the local government gave financial assistance to 133 small businesses who were greatly affected by the pandemic, the said financial aid is the phase 2 of Kalingang QC para sa Negosyo

(KQSN)

Program.

The city government earmarked P500 million for the KQSKN Program.

For four score and two years, Quezon City has been a witness in the nation's desire for progress, the development of the city and its residents, and the journey of the Filipino, with the nearing completion of the new line of the Metro Rail Transit or MRT-7 which will help Filipinos in their commute and further promote economic growth across Metro Manila.

Apart from the toll road industry, San Miguel Corporation Infrastructure has also invested early in other projects. The Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT-7) is a 22-kilometer rail and road project that runs from North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan, with 14 stations and a daily capacity of 650,000 people.

The 82 years' existence of Quezon City is a testament of the Filipino spirit, continuing the race towards a better future, not just for the Filipinos, but to its foreign neighbors as well. As it endures the hardships brought by the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), it has never stopped progress. With vaccination rates going up, the future is yet to come to Quezon City, and it will be ready, as it always has been. Quezon City is a (modern) city that is never tired of change.