

Pangkabuhayang QC has 10,000 applicants

The Manila Times · 31 Oct 2021 · A7 · MOISES CRUZ

THE Quezon City government's Pangkabuhayang QC program received over 10,000 applications.

The program is a startup capital for any small business. Applicants exceeded Phase 1 of the project.

The **Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office (SBCDPO)** has notified that online and offline applications will be temporarily suspended while all documents received are being evaluated.

On November 2, the supposed last day for submission, no application was received. Interested residents are encouraged to wait for the program's Phase 2.

On Friday, crowds gathered at the Quezon City Hall with the hopes of receiving ayuda (aid) after hearing reports that they may receive cash by simply standing in line.

Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte said it was fake news.

"It was the fake news that led to the influx of people today. From the investigation of our team, people lined up as early as last night with the idea that they could receive P10,000 just by falling in line. An estimated 85 percent of the people who went to City Hall were not interested in starting a business but were there to get the alleged 'ayuda,'" Belmonte said.

The **city government** had already refuted a Facebook post encouraging citizens to apply for emergency monetary aid per household last week.

On September 6, the Pangkabuhayang QC — a livelihood training and financial aid initiative for QC citizens who have lost their jobs or whose businesses have suffered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic — was inaugurated. Since then, the SBCDPO has been receiving 150 applications each day.

The local government has set out P150 million for the program's initial phase, with each candidate receiving from P5,000 to P20,000 depending on the type of business they choose.

"For those who are planning to start their own business, the local government still has other programs for startup micro and small entrepreneurs. We are focused on economic recovery and we assure QCitizens that our focus is on helping our business owners," Belmonte added.