

## 'SHOW COMPASSION TO STREET VENDORS'

### Quezon City mayor issues guidelines for law enforcers in view of hardships arising from pandemic

New Straits Times · 29 Nov 2021 · 24 · MANILA

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LOCAL authority enforcers, assigned to deal with hawkers and street vendors, were told to implement a “compassionate policy” when carrying out their duties this Christmas season.

Quezon City mayor Joy Belmonte gave the directive in the recently approved supplemental guidelines for the Christmas season, with the Covid-19 crisis still evident, Philstar.com portal reported.

“In light of the continuing hardships arising from the pandemic, law enforcement shall maintain a policy of compassionate treatment of street vendors and the like.

“There shall be no confiscation of goods,” she said.

Under the guidelines, stall vendors, hawkers, street vendors and ambulant micro-entrepreneurs should have a hawker’s permit from the city’s Market Development and Administration Department.

Vendors must be fully vaccinated, use face masks, have alcohol bottles ready for convenient disinfection by staff and customers, and observe physical distancing at all times.

They were also reminded to prominently display their stall or vendor numbers, and strictly observe the demarcation lines between stalls, and keep their areas clean and orderly at all times.

Shopping malls, too, were reminded to request patrons to present a vaccine card prior to entering the business premises.

“However, if a person does not have a vaccination card, he or she may still be allowed to enter, provided that the establishment take the name, contact number and barangay (district) of the unvaccinated customer, and submit the same to the city government for vaccination purposes,” read the guidelines.

The city government also allowed holiday bazaars during the Christmas season, provided the traders, salespersons, exhibitors, organisers and other personnel are fully vaccinated.