## Over 3,000 QC families to get land titles

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More than 3,000 informal settler families in Quezon City will be able to own the land on which they have lived for decades after the local government acquired several properties from various landowners in the city.

Mayor Joy Belmonte signed over the weekend the deeds of sale with private entities for parcels of land in Barangays Baesa, Bagong Silangan, Payatas and Old Balara.

Belmonte said the local government bought a 24,285-square-meter property in Baesa, a 5,000-sqm lot in Old Balara, 90,675sqm lot in Bagong Silangan and 19,476-sqm land in Payatas.

"This marks the beginning of a long promise's fulfillment. The city government will allot funding so that we can finally end the decades of waiting of our constituents," she said.

The Quezon City Housing, Community Development and Resettlement Department (HCDRD) said a total of 3,478 families would benefit from the program: 2,000 in Baesa, 1,127 in Bagong Silangan, 301 in Payatas and 50 in Old Balara.

The acquired land will be awarded to the residents through a direct sale program. Under the scheme, the local government will buy the property from the landowner and the beneficiaries will secure their individual titles after payment of their respective lots to the city government.

"Before, lands were bought through the community mortgage program, but its process was too long. With the direct sale scheme, the city will coordinate with private landowners so you can acquire the lots faster and cheaper," Belmonte explained.

According to the HCDRD, the zonal value of the land in four barangays ranges from P9,000 to P18,000 per square meter.

The beneficiaries from Baesa, Bagong Silangan and Payatas will have to pay only P3,000 per sqm and P5,000 per sqm for residents of Old Balara.

"The local government intends to give low-cost and decent housing for each resident. Adequate housing is a basic human right. It is the obligation of the city to find ways to provide shelter for informal settler families," Belmonte said.

She said the government aims to provide permanent housing to at least 17,000 indigent families by 2022.