

Belmonte OKs green procurement ordinance

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has approved an ordinance that will include environmental criteria in the technical specifications for the procurement of goods, services and infrastructure projects of the local government.

Called the Quezon City Green Public Procurement Ordinance, the measure mandates the inclusion of at least one environmental specification in the terms of reference or requirements of a project.

“This ordinance will help the city government implement the policies it crafted and fulfill the agreements and commitments it entered into with various organizations when it comes to environmental protection and sustainable development,” Belmonte said.

She noted that Quezon City is the lone Philippine city that is a member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, which advocates climate action and sustainability.

It is also a part of the Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement, a group of citizens committed to drive a transition to sustainable consumption and production by implementing innovative procurement.

Under the ordinance, a Green Public Procurement Team under the supervision of the Environmental Policy Management Council will be created to oversee its implementation.

Failure to comply with the requirement will result in the filing of an administrative complaint against the head of office, administrative officer and other employees who participated in its preparation.

Members of the Bids and Awards Committee will also face administrative complaints if they fail to implement this requirement in the procurement process.

“As the local leaders of the city, we need to set an example and walk the talk in our advocacies. By enacting an ordinance that upgrades our public procurement criteria, we are encouraging suppliers and consumers to support the market for environmentally preferable goods and services,” Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, presiding officer of the Quezon City Council, said. – Janvic Mateo