

BELMONTE SIGNS ORDINANCE CREATING CITY PENSION FUND

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QUEZON City Mayor Maria Josefina “Joy” Belmonte on Monday announced she has signed an ordinance that will establish the Social Welfare Assistance Program (SWAP), the city’s own version of the national government’s pension fund.

Belmonte said the implementation of the ordinance was put on hold until the local and national elections are over.

“I have already signed it but we cannot implement it now because it’s election period. I am very happy about this for our concerned sectors that we hope to put in force after the elections,” she said.

Belmonte said the local government has enough funds to fully implement the program, which will directly benefit the senior citizens, solo parents and persons with disability (PWD), among others.

“The residents kept on asking about their pension benefits from us, unaware that the local government has nothing to do with it so we immediately devised a plan since we have enough funds from the city coffers and the result was the SWAP,” the mayor added.

The mayor cited in particular PWD with children who have cerebral palsy or mental problems that are also included under SWAP because they need help from the government given their social condition as well as those who can no longer work.

Belmonte said she also signed an ordinance that will pave the way for the implementation of the Alagang QC Program.

Alagang QC was patterned after the program in the United States that provides unemployment benefits for those who lost their job or those whose contracts have expired.

“They continue to receive this benefit while waiting to be employed again and that’s what we will do in Quezon City, we will support those who become jobless,” Belmonte said.

Under the scheme, an unemployed resident can receive at least P500 a week in eight straight weeks until he/ she is employed again.

“It’s not that much but at least, it can help to buy their basic needs like rice,” Belmonte said.