

# Commitment to people

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The **Quezon City Government**, under the leadership of **Mayor Joy Belmonte**, vows to continue the gains of the past three years and build on programs and services of the city government towards sustainable and inclusive growth across all sectors.



During her first term, Mayor Belmonte introduced a 14-point agenda that focuses on human and social services, economic development, environment and climate change, infrastructure, and institutional development. This became the anchor for all programs, services, and innovations by the city government.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the city government pursued social services which addressed the basic needs of the citizens such as free medicines, housing, and transportation.

## FREE MEDICINES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Since its relaunch on April 5, the Quezon City government has included an additional 4,920 senior citizens under its QC Senior Citizens Maintenance Medicine program.

Through the program, each senior citizen resident who needs maintenance medicine for hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol will receive medicines including Losartan (50mg/tab), Amlodipine (5mg/tab), Metformin (500mg/tab), and Simvastatin (20mg/tab) for free.

Since the implementation of the program through the passage of City Ordinance 2892, authored by Majority Leader **Franz Pumaren**, Councilor **Donny Matias** and Councilor **Imee Rillo**, in December 2019, the city has been providing monthly maintenance medicines to 40,000 QCitizens.

To cater to more elderlies, the city government, through its district action offices and health centers, has also started to bring the program down to the barangays and communities to encourage more seniors to be recipients of the program.

## HOUSING FOR INDIGENT RESIDENTS

The Quezon City government continues to help informal settler families (ISFs), who has been living in the city for decades, fulfill their dreams of having permanent homes. Recently, at least 100 families from four homeowner's associations in Barangay Gulod have received their land titles, through the direct sale and direct purchase program facilitated by their barangay.

With the help of the barangay, the beneficiaries were able to finally buy the land where they have been residing for decades from private landowners.

Based on the report of the **Housing Community Development and Resettlement Department (HCDRD)**, since July 2019, the city has been able to give security of land tenure to over 17,000 underprivileged beneficiaries through the city's Land Acquisition and Socialized Housing program. The department also cited that more families have benefited at a faster rate than any time before.

The city has established various land acquisition programs to ramp up and effectively address the housing needs of the residents: the direct sale and direct purchase program, and usufruct agreement for lands owned by other government agencies.

#### FREE RIDES THRU QC BUS SYSTEM

The QCity Bus Augmentation Program was able to provide free rides to more than 1.9 million passengers in Quezon City from January to April this year.

QCity Bus was initiated by the Quezon City Government in 2020 to address the lack of available public transportation due to community quarantine restrictions set by the national government.

“Libreng Sakay” rides were initially provided from May to July of that year along four routes to access many public and private hospitals in Quezon City. Eventually, and with the easing of quarantine restrictions for different essential workers, in December 2020, the four routes became eight, passing through major thoroughfares and bringing more people to more destinations throughout the City.

With some route adjustments, the eight QCity Bus routes continue until today, with daily scheduled trips from 6 a.m to 9 p.m. (except on holidays).

Since its formal launch on Dec. 7, 2020, the program has catered to more than 6 million passengers in Quezon City. The Quezon City Government has also frequently deployed additional trips, such as in April to cater to stranded passengers along Commonwealth Avenue and along EDSA, due to inadequacies in public transportation.

#### COVID-19 VACCINES AND BOOSTERS

The Quezon City government continues to strictly implement COVID-19 vaccination efforts to cover all eligible QCitizens. It also ramps up its vaccination of booster shots for added immunity and protection, especially for those who are immunocompromised.

As of May 20, a total of 2,451,805 individuals both adults and minors, are fully vaccinated in Quezon City. More than 2.2 million have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine including those who received the single-dose Janssen vaccines. The pediatric population has also received their vaccine shots and more than 330,000 children with or without comorbidities have received at least their first dose of vaccines.

In total, the Quezon City Government has administered more than 5.7 million first and second doses and booster shots during its implementation of the QCProtektodo Vaccination Program.

The city government also started administering second booster shots for senior citizens, frontline health workers, and immunocompromised adults.