

Quezon City to collect real property tax anew

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AFTER a five-year break, the Quezon City local government will begin collecting real property tax (RPT) this year based on the 2017 schedule of fair market values (FMVs).

“Beginning with the taxable year 2023, we will use the FMVs for various classes of real property as defined in Ordinance No. SP-2556, Series of 2016, which was passed in 2016 and was applied until 2017,” City Treasurer Edgar Villanueva said on Tuesday.

He explained that the adjustment is not a new hike, but rather a return to the rate that was in effect five years ago when it was temporarily stopped by the Supreme Court in response to a petition brought by a homeowners’ organization challenging the ordinance’s legality. In 2018, the Supreme Court removed its temporary restraining order, allowing the new schedule of FMVs to be reimplemented.

Despite the positive ruling, the local government chose to keep the suspension in place until recently in order to ease “the effects of inflation created by the Tax Reform Acceleration and Inclusion (Train) Law.”

With the city government getting P1 billion less in national tax allocation because of the national government’s deficiency in tax collections caused by the pandemic, the old rate must be reinstated to fund the city’s five key goals, among them growth of social services and construction of necessary infrastructure.

“Through the years, the unwavering support of our residents through their tax payments has enabled us to fund impactful programs. We look forward to the same support as we aim to build and rehabilitate vital public facilities such as footbridges, parks, schools and hospitals, among others, and, of course, to fund the social services that we extend especially to the marginalized,” Villanueva said.

Taxes can be paid at Quezon City Hall through the City Treasurer’s Office, at payment centers across the city or online through QC E-Services.

Taxpayers who pay their yearly dues on or before March 31, 2023, will receive a 20-percent discount, while those who pay in installments or at the end of each quarter will receive a 10-percent discount.

Meanwhile, Villanueva recommended that delinquent taxpayers pay their taxes in full or via installment during the payment period in order to avoid legal action or having their property placed on the list of delinquent properties to be auctioned off.

Step-by-step instructions for paying the RPT can be found on the official website of the Quezon City local government: [https:// quezoncity.gov.ph/qccitizen-guides/how-topay-your-real-property-tax/](https://quezoncity.gov.ph/qccitizen-guides/how-topay-your-real-property-tax/)