PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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QC looking for idle land to turn into parking lots

By Jeannette I. Andrade

QUEZON City Mayor Herbert, Bautista has encouraged owners of idle land to convert these into pay parking areas or to either sell or rent them out to the city government.

In a statement, the mayor said he had directed the local barangay operations center to coordinate with the heads of the city's 142 barangays to identify vacant lots in their respective areas and talk to their owners.

He added that the owners may also sell or rent out the space to the city government for conversion into a parking area.

Private individuals or establishments should be encouraged to help the city address the problem of vehicle owners who are renting or residing in houses or apartments with no parking space, Bautista said.

He pointed out that fees from parking spaces which were pre-

viously idle lots help generate additional income for the city government.

Meanwhile, Bautista also ordered the conduct of a study on a land banking system that could be established in the city so that the local government could benefit from idle, abandoned or undeveloped lots.

He pointed out that "money collected from land banking could address the city's worthy projects such as socialized housing for informal settlers and development of infrastructure such as parks and recreational venues in the barangays."

Land banking is simply managing an inventory of surplus land or clustering lots for future sale or development.

The system, he said, will also spare the city from the expenses to be incurred from buying private property for low-income housing projects, new schools and other projects.

Oc Land banking

QC government to use mobile mobile banking to improve financial services

By Arlie O. Calalo

The Quezon City government will soon use mobile banking (m-banking) to improve the city's financial services, including payment system, electronic payroll distribution, government services and agent networking distribution.

Interviewed by members of the Quezon City Press Club, Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista said the local government has partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in developing a Scaling Innovation in Mobile Money (SIMM) project.

He said SIMM is a two-year project that aims to promote the usage and access to m-banking by the city government in transacting business with the public through new technologies.

The project, which has five phases, including audience and communication baseline analysis, development of branding, core message and prototype designs and conduct of pre-testing, is intended to offer innovative, cost-effective means to create high-impact development that will benefit the marginalized sector of the population, Bautista explained.

The QC mayor believed the lack of access to financial services, especially of the city's underprivileged, presents a major barrier in achieving broad-based economic growth.

With the use of m-banking, the poor and underemployed without bank accounts will be given the chance to build their assets to better withstand shocks and participate in the formal economy, he said.

"It is also targeted to leapfrog from conventional banking models into development of challenges of financial and economic inclusion," he said.

Once the project is operational, the transacting public will enjoy lower cost and save money since the use of mbanking will not entail transportation expense because it can be done anywhere, at home or office, with the use of personal cellular phone or partner merchant.

"Aside from cost-effective, the use of m-banking is also secured because there is no need to carry cash during transaction. It is also more convenient because it can be accessed anytime and anywhere with the click of keys of cellular phone," the mayor said.

Bautista added the project will solve the problem of long queues, traffic and deadline schedules that the transacting public usually encounters in doing business at QC Hall and other government agencies.

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