

QC treasurer's office uncovers bogus financial statements from traders, firms

By Arlie O. Calalo

The Quezon City treasurer's office has uncovered close to hundred spurious financial statements submitted by supposed businessmen and firms that are paying business taxes in the city.

Interviewed by the Quezon City Press Club, City Treasurer Edgar Villanueva said those unearthed would surely not pass the scrutiny being made by his office as Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista himself warned earlier that no one will be spared if found cheating their tax obligations.

The Tribune was told that the questionable documents were submitted for assessment in the payment of business taxes by the taxpayers themselves who tried to outwit evaluators with their fake financial statement to reduce the

taxes due to them.

Villanueva was expected to submit his report to the city chief executive for the latter's proper action.

"Had it not been uncovered, the city government may lose hundreds of millions of pesos in tax collection if the errant firms would get away with undervaluing or understating their incomes," Villanueva said.

More bogus documents will surely be discovered by city treasurer's office, according to Villanueva who showed to reporters the piles of fake financial statements submitted by erroneous businessmen.

Bautista has reiterated that City Hall personnel that connive with the so-called fixers will be held liable and may be meted with stiff fines and even jail terms if found guilty of being involved in irregularities in the process of tax payments.

With the findings, Councilor Victor Ferrer Jr., chairman of the City Council's committee on ways and means, requested Bautista to immediately apply the full force of the law against the errant parties.

He also asked the Treasury Department to identify in public the names of the firms and even the city hall personnel involved in the faking of financial statements or other forms of irregularities that is eating up hundreds millions of the city's coffers.

"Corrupt city hall personnel should not stay in the government service a second longer. They are a disgrace to public service. Cheating business firms submitting erroneous financial statements should also be punished. If it was up to me I would display in full public view the names of these cheaters," Ferrer said.

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QC Simplifies Taxpayers' Biz Process

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Quezon City (QC) government has introduced a more simplified procedure for business permit renewals beginning January, 2013, to assist the public.

The simplified procedure cuts down by at least two steps the process of facilitating the renewal of business permits in Quezon City for taxpayers.

Under the new procedure, the

tourism assessment step shall be dropped since not all businesses are covered by the tourism ordinance.

Upon assessment, taxpayers shall be immediately informed whether their businesses are covered by the tourism ordinance or not.

It was observed that taxpayers lined up for hours at the tourism desk only to be told that their businesses are not covered by the tourism ordinance.

In addition, the Quezon City government will also be introducing a new strategy to avoid long queues in

the issuance of the "cedulas" or the community tax certificates.

Beginning next year, the city will start incorporating the amount of payment for the community tax in the business tax bill.

Manual issuance of "cedulas" still applies to individual taxpayers.

The introduction of the new strategies was adopted after Mayor Herbert Bautista's chief of staff, Aldrin C. Cuña, convened the city's revenue generating cluster, in preparation for next year's tax payment period.

"From six procedural steps, now, it's down to four," Cuña said.

Meanwhile, Cuña said all low-risk establishments, such as sari-sari stores, may pay their taxes at the various treasury department branches outside of Quezon City Hall which are located at Novaliches, La Loma, Cubao, Talipapa and Galas.

The city government will also be extending the office days and hours of all the offices involved in tax assessments and payments for the month of January to accept tax payments.

Business Permit Procedure

QC Business Tax Collection Increases

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Quezon City Treasurer's Office yesterday said it has increased by about 12.22 percent its business tax collection in the first 10 months of this year compared to the same period last year.

In a collection report submitted to Mayor Herbert Bautista, City Treasurer Ed Villanueva said the increase represents a total collection of P5.015 billion in business taxes from January to October this year.

Villanueva said the amount is P546 million more than what was collected by Quezon City in 2011, which amounted to P4.469 billion.

To date, Quezon City has the biggest number of business establishments in the country with 61,332 registered business entities.

According to the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office, these businesses represent a pool of capital of more than P284 billion, which grows by about P5.43 billion each year.

Villanueva said there is also a significant increase in the collection of real estate taxes in the city during the past 10 months.

Based on the same collection report, Quezon City posted a gross real property tax collection of P3.168 billion from January to October, which is P242 million more than what was collected during the same period last year.

The city's gross revenue collection from local sources has now reached P9.819 billion in taxes and fees during the past 10 months.

Villanueva added that the collection represents an increase of P891.1 million or 9.98 percent compared to the revenue collection posted by the city during the same period in 2011.

The city's collection also included payments for the taxes on idle land and socialized housing.

Meanwhile, Villanueva said his office is expecting to collect an additional P12 million in real estate taxes during the auction that will be scheduled by the city before the year ends and about P800 million more in real estate collection during the fourth quarter of 2012.

"Hopefully, the city will be able

to collect about P11.5 billion in revenues by the end of the year," Villanueva said.

In 2011, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) of the Department of Finance, has named Quezon City as best individual revenue performer among the 17 local government units comprising the National Capital Region.

Based on the BLGF report, Que-

zon City posted a gross revenue collection of P9.465 billion in taxes and fees in 2011, which was significantly higher than the revenue collection posted by Makati amounting to P9.458 billion.

Villanueva said his office is pursuing an aggressive tax collection program in order to finance the various requirements for governance and growth of the city.

QC Business ^{total} establishments.
QC Tax Collection

QC treasurer urges public to report fraudulent business establishments

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Quezon City treasurer's office exhorted the public yesterday to report business establishments that continue to defraud the city government through fraudulent and understated payment of taxes.

Quezon City Treasurer Victor Endriga made the warning as a member of the Quezon City Council lambasted his office for allegedly putting into auction properties of individuals and corporations with marginal tax liabilities while letting big time crooks off the hook.

Councilor Jaime Borres of the third district of Quezon City questioned why the property of Maytan Estate Corp. with tax liabilities amounting to ₱7,256, 211.53 from 2005 to 2009 was not included in the list of auctioned properties in the first quarter of 2009.

The Quezon City Treasurer's Of-

fice conducts an auction of the properties of delinquent real estate tax payers every quarter of every year after duly serving delinquency notices to the owners of the concerned properties.

Endriga said the notices of delinquency had been mailed through the post office or personally served but were returned to the Quezon City treasurer's office due to refused acceptance, moved out, untraceable location of owners and change of address.

Borres asked Endriga why the property of First Management Realty Corp. Inc. under property index number 18-24898 with tax declaration number E-122-09387 was included in the latest auction despite having real estate property tax liabilities of only ₱5,740.12.

Under property index number 20-40281 with tax declaration number E-069-04367 the property of declared owner EC Gozum and Company inc.

with tax liabilities of ₱6,864.68 was also included in the latest auction.

Endriga said his office relies on the automatic computerized system in running after tax cheats.

He said the city government needs the vigilance of law-abiding citizens to catch more tax cheats who defraud the Quezon City government of billions of pesos in incorrect or unpaid taxes through the years.

He admitted that his office is purely dependent on the computerized list of tax evaders provided by other Quezon City Hall personnel.

In the case of Maytan Estate Corp., Endriga said a committee headed by Councilor Franz Pumaren prohibited the Quezon City Treasurer's Office from collecting taxes from the company.

"We cannot collect business and other taxes from the company. Baka ma-technical pa kami kasi nga wala silang franchise kaya wala silang record sa amin," Endriga said.

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