

## QC to go after bomb threat pranksters

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QUEZON CITY Mayor Josefina “Joy” Belmonte on Friday warned the public that the city government will go after those who spread bomb threats or any false information on the safety and security of schools in the city.

“We will go after those who spread false information or pranks about bomb threats. Our schools are supposed to be a safe place for our students and we will not take these pranks and threats lightly,” Belmonte said in a statement.

The mayor made the call after bomb threats disrupted classes in New Era Elementary School, San Jacinto High School, San Francisco High School and Ponciano Bernardo High School this week. Police bomb disposal teams that responded to the alerts declared the three incidents as a hoax. Belmonte met with Quezon City Police District (QCPD) officials led by BGen. Nicolas Torre 3rd to make sure that the series of bomb threats would be thoroughly investigated. Torre has assured the mayor they will find and arrest the perpetrators of the incidents.

“Our own Anti-Cybercrime Group is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and we will track down anyone behind these bomb scares that could cause disruption and danger to our communities,” the QCPD chief said.

The mayor said she will ask the city council to craft an ordinance that will prescribe heavier penalties or fines to anyone who disseminates false information about bombs or explosives.

Bomb scares or pranks are considered a violation under Presidential Decree 1727 entitled “Declaring as Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False information or the Willful Making of any Threat Concerning Bombs, Explosives or Any Similar Device or Means of Destruction and Imposing Penalties Therefor.”