

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

20 MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012

GSIS grants relief to gov't workers in QC

State workers residing in Quezon City may now avail themselves of P20,000 financial assistance from the state pension fund to help them cope with the effects of monsoon rains last August.

The Quezon City local government has issued an ordinance authorizing government employees residing in its 60 barangays to secure financial assistance from the Government Service Insurance

System (GSIS), Home Development Mutual Fund and "other insurance and lending agencies," a statement said.

"The ordinance served as basis for the grant by the GSIS of emergency loan to its members in Quezon City in the absence of a formal declaration of a state of calamity by the local government," the pension fund explained.

Members have until Oct. 19 to apply for the emergency loan, it added.

Loans will be credited to members' electronic cards within one week, GSIS said. "If the loan proceeds are not credited within seven days from the date of application, members can go to the nearest GSIS office or the nearest kiosk for the status."

GSIS had been extending help to its members during calamities such as during the aftermath of tropical storm "Ondoy" in September 2009. - **Prinz Magtulis**

Calamity Loan

ManilaStandardToday

A6 FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 2012

Govt workers in QC to get calamity loans

ALTHOUGH no state of calamity was declared in Quezon City amid the heavy monsoon rain last week, city residents who are government employees may be allowed to receive a calamity loan from the Government Service Insurance System and Home Mutual Development Fund if the city council passes a measure to that effect.

Mayor Herbert Bautista has discussed the matter with GSIS and Pag-Ibig officials and they concluded that they can extend loans to government workers even if the city did not declare a state of calamity.

The city could not declare a state of calamity because only six percent of the total population of 2,915,772 people were affected by the floods the past two weeks. "Six percent is too small for a big city," said Aldrin Cuña, Bautista's chief of staff.

But the city will have to pass an ordinance authorizing the process so that loans will not violate

the rules and regulations of the two national government agencies, according to Cuña.

"I have already talked to officials of the two agencies to provide residents, who work in any government agency, with calamity loans. The plan has been agreed in principle. We are just awaiting [the ordinance's] passage," Bautista said.

Cuña said the mayor will certify the proposed ordinance as urgent and endorse the bill to Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, so that she could convene a special hearing to debate and approve the proposition.

"The authority to access and apply for calamity loan under this ordinance shall apply to career government employees who are bona fide and registered residents of Quezon City at the height of the southwest monsoon or low pressure (area) during the period of 6 Aug.-10 Aug.," the proposition read. **Rio N. Araja**

calamity loan