

QC plans to prohibit candidates from using plastic posters as campaign materials in polls

Candidates in Quezon City will be banned from using plastic posters as campaign materials for the May 2013 elections once a proposed measure is passed and approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte said over the weekend.

She told the *Tribune* in a text message that it was Councilor Dorothy Delarmente who filed the proposed ordinance designed to prohibit the use of plastic posters as campaign materials by any political candidate to prevent environmental problems all over the city.

In her proposal, which apparently gets the support of her colleagues at the city council, Delarmente noted the problem of indiscriminate throwing of non-biodegradable plastics in waterways and drainage outlets

proves to be the perennial cause of flash floods in the city.

She said this early the candidates for public office should be warned not to create or cause further environment woes that would affect the welfare of the city residents.

"Non-biodegradable plastic materials create waste problems in the city and sometimes clog the canals and sewerage systems that results in flooding," Delarmente said.

She added political candidates must initiate or participate in integrated ecological solid waste management projects, adopt innovative processes that shall recycle and re-use materials, reduce waste and prevent pollution, and undertake community activities, promote and propagate effective solid waste

management practices.

Explaining it is provided in Section 57 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the local candidates must be supportive of the campaign against use of plastic posters "rather than be a contributor to environmental problem."

The ordinance is seeking a fine of P1,000 for the first offense, P3,000 for second offense and P5,000 or imprisonment of not less than one week for third offense.

The environment police, the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department and Parks Development and Administration Department are tasked to apprehend violators of the ordinance, the city council said.

Arlie O. Calalo

- Quezon City
- plastic
- plastic posters
- campaign
- campaign materials
- drainage outlets
- floods
- waste management

Respectfully submitted:

Allan Benedict S. Reyes
City Councilor, 3rd District

QC Intensifies Anti-Littering, Anti-Dumping Campaign

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

A Quezon City councilor yesterday asked the city government to strengthen its anti-littering and anti-dumping drive to decrease the garbage that clogs the city's drainage system.

Councilor Allan Benedict Reyes of the city's 3rd district issued the call in the wake of complaints that the streets on some Quezon City areas have become flooded during heavy downpour this summer.

"There have been complaints that the flood at some sections of Quirino district have now entered the households unlike before when the water would only reach the streets," Reyes noted.

Chito Cabungcal, chief of the Que-

zon City Engineering Department (QCED), said that at the start of the summer months his field men have intensified the de-clogging of canals, creeks, inlets and other waterways for close to 16-hours retrieving an average of 750-fully laden dump trucks of garbage daily.

"We have never been negligent of our duties. We are doing everything humanly possible to clean the city's waterways but the thing is people continue to dump garbage indiscriminately. Some of my men are licensed civil engineers who have become garbage collectors," Cabungcal noted.

Jason San Jose, a resident of the barangay, acknowledged that numerous city streets have become wider and well-paved but the city government should now act on the encroachments and illegal dumping of waste

on the waterways with impunity.

"It is unimaginable how people living near the edge of creeks got their line titles. It is frustrating to note that these same people are the once polluting the waterways. In some cases they have even extended their structures on and above the water channels further restricting the flow of rain water causing it to overflow on the households," San Jose added.

"The poor have rights as law-abiding citizens," San Jose noted.

Earlier the city government has deputized 35 police officers from the 12 Quezon City Police District stations where they will be tasked to handle environment-related cases in the city.

Mayor Herbert Bautista personally handed the handbooks to the policemen, known as green desk

officers, to ensure that they become familiar with local and national environmental laws.

Of the 37 environmental ordinances enacted by the city, 26 are related to solid waste management.

These measures include City Ordinance SP - 1203, S - 2002 which grants incentives to barangays practicing best solid waste management and City Ordinance SP - 1191, S - 2002, which also provides incentives to all barangays using their own trucks for solid waste collection service in their respective barangays.

"We have the laws. Let us work to make sure that these laws are enforced, without fear or favor," the mayor said.

Aside from the introduction of the green desk program, the city's environmental protection and waste

management department has also harnessed the participation of other stakeholders from the Metro Manila Mayor's Spouses Foundation, Inc., barangays, out-of-school-youth, educational institutions and city-hired garbage haulers in the enforcement of the city's environmental laws, especially policies against littering.

On the part of city schools, 130 high school students from 13 pilot public schools shall be deputized as junior environment police officers who will be tasked to issue notices of violation within the confines of the pilot schools.

The EPWMD has undertaken a profiling of the city's major thoroughfares and dissemination of garbage collection guidelines to ensure the success of the city's initiative, which was launched in support of the "Metro Ko, Love Ko" project of the MMDA.

QC Anti-dumping campaign

Politicians' Posters Mushroom In QC

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By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

With graduations scheduled this month, posters of political figures with congratulatory messages have mushroomed in Quezon City, with some blocking signs and traffic lights.

It has come to the point that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has labeled Quezon City as the "poster capital" of the Philippines.

Councilor Jimmy Borres of the city's third district admitted that the label is apt, but said that not all the offending tarpaulins were put up by politicians.

As a political ploy, adversaries of politicians sometimes spend a tidy sum to put their opponents in bad light by hanging or posting campaign materials on non-designated posting areas, Borres said.

"The MMDA was right on the dot to label the city as such. What the city government can do is to just remove the unsightly posters that distract the motorists," he said.

He urged his colleagues and those wishing to enter the political arena in the city to desist from installing, posting, hanging and pasting posters, tarpaulins and other forms of advertisement greetings saying that genuinely serving their constituents all year round is the better guaranty

in winning the elections.

With the elections next year, political aspirants are taking advantage by hanging and posting oversized billboards that sometimes bearing their photos.

The MMDA has been coordinating with their counterparts in the local government units (LGUs) in removing traffic hazards.

Borres said motorists tend to be distracted by the billboards and posters, exposing them to the risk of being involved in a smash-up.

He pointed out that it is very difficult to pin down political figures associated with the illegal posting of all forms of advertisements and campaign posters as they can put the blame to their political adversaries.

Besides, the penalty for such offense for those caught pasting the posters is very light that the politicians or candidates for public office concerned can easily get them out of their predicament.

However, Quezon City Third District Congressman Jorge "Bolet" Banal said that he personally asks his men to remove any of his posters that put the lives of the public at risks even without any written or verbal complaint.

Banal also added that his personal funds and donations from friends and allies are being used to purchase the tarpaulins and other materials needed to paste or put up the posters.

campaign posters

QC removes propaganda materials

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Responding to public outrage, the Quezon City government yesterday ordered the immediate removal of propaganda materials hanging or being posted near lamp posts and electric wires.

In a memorandum, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte instructed Zaldy dela Rosa, head of the city's Parks Development and Administration Department, to enforce the order right away and remove commercial and political tarpaulins in the city.

Aside from being eyesores, Belmonte noted that a large number of the posters, streamers and other advertising propaganda in Quezon City are posing danger to the public as many of them are hanging on electric wires and are posted illegally.

"In the interest of public safety you are hereby ordered to remove or cause the removal of all propaganda materials posted near or on electrical wires," Belmonte told Dela Rosa.

Ordinance number SC-153 S-90 prohibits any persons to display or attach any streamer, sticker, pamphlet, tin plates, cardboards, billboards or any other advertising paraphernalia in any electric post or similar facilities.

Belmonte said the confiscated advertising, promotional and campaign materials will be kept by the city government for safekeeping and may be redeemed by owners.

He said the city government may be compelled to impose stiff fines and penalties after issuing a warning to

the errant tarpaulin or advertising material owners.

However, concerned citizens challenged the city government to make true its promise of removing all illegal campaign materials of the administration or opposition candidates. They feared that the order was issued just to appease the public, saying that the city government may be singling out and removing the campaign materials of their political adversaries.

"Dapat parehas. Hindi lamang mga propopaganda ng kandidato na kalaban sa politika ng mga nakaupo sa pamahalaan ng lungsod ang dapat tatanggalin," a concerned citizen said.

Quezon City councilors vying for higher posts expressed the same sentiments saying that the order may only apply to the political foes of the Belmonte administration.

Earlier, Belmonte declared his full support for the mayoral candidacy of Quezon City vice-mayor Herbert Bautista and the vice-mayoral bid of his daughter Joy Belmonte-Alimurung in the 2010 national elections.

"Hindi natin maiiwasan mag-isip lalo na

kung ang babanggain natin ay anak pa ng mismong alkalde ng Quezon City. Syempre kahit anung sabihin nila papaboran nila si Joy kahit paa-no," a city councilor who requested anonymity said.

The Quezon City councilor said that city hall personnel should start removing the illegal campaign mate-

rials of Bautista and Joy Belmonte first to disprove doubts on the nature of the tarpaulin removal memorandum. "Dapat walang hidden bad intentions ang poster-removal campaign ni Mayor Belmonte. Walang dapat itira maski na yung poster at streamer ng mga kandidato nila," the city councilor added.

QC councilor defends installation of posters

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

After being tagged as the poster capital of the Philippines, a member of the Quezon City council said that display of posters greeting the people during special occasions is a tradition long practiced since the time of their political forefathers.

Councilor Ariel Inton of the fourth district of Quezon City finds nothing wrong in following the tradition. He said that the practice of sending greetings to the people through posters was done long before he entered politics.

Inton stressed that placing posters on lamp posts, parks, playgrounds and other legal posting areas visible to the people is lawful unless they pose danger to the lives of the motorists and pedestrians.

He shrugged off claims that Quezon City is the poster capital of the country and emphasized that politicians of other cities and municipalities in the country are also into displaying posters as part of their political careers.

But Councilor Jorge "Bolet" Banal of the third district of Quezon City said that he gave specific instructions to his people against the installation of oversized greeting cards in the guise of posters.

Manuel Sabalza Quezon City as-

sistant administrator for operations and head of the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) said that illegal display of posters on electric and cable wires carries no penalty.

He said that his office will just write the persons concern informing them about the presence of their posters that the DPOS finds dangerous to motorists and pedestrians on the streets.

After giving them one week to respond to the letter and voluntarily detach their posters, Sabalza said that the DPOS personnel will start to remove the illegal posters and store them at the DPOS storage room where they will remain for 10 days within which the concerned parties may redeem them.

If the posters are unclaimed after 10 days the DPOS will dispose them and consider them as junk materials.

City Hall personnel who requested anonymity said that the public should brace themselves for more posters hanging on electric wires, pasted on lamp posts, trees and barks and posted in every conceivable place on every occasion in the city unless city officials can set aside their selfish political motives to pass an ordinance seeking stiffer sanction for the illegal display of posters to ensure public safety.