

## QC lauded for free breast cancer screening initiative

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The Commission on Human Rights has commended the Quezon City government for conducting a free breast cancer screening for more than 20,000 women last month.

The initiative, led by the Quezon City Health Department, was part of the series of activities organized by the local government as part of the annual celebration of women's month last March.

A total of 22,476 women from the city's six districts were screened, with 146 of them testing positive for breast mass.

Eight residents were referred to the East Avenue Medical Center for surgery and treatment, while the rest underwent mammograms at the Quezon City General Hospital.

"Cancer is one of the illnesses that have a high mortality rate in Quezon City. We can easily address this through prevention or early detection to prevent it from getting serious,"

Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

"We understand that many Filipinos do not undergo consultations or check-ups because of financial constraints. That's why we make sure that the local government is there to support them," she added.

According to the CHR, programs such free breast cancer screenings are critical steps toward addressing the health problem.

It cited a study of the Philippine Statistics Authority, which showed that cancer is the country's second-leading cause of death in recent years, particularly lung, liver, breast, colorectal and prostate cancers.

"The Commission believes that early detection is one of the key factors in improving breast cancer outcomes in the country. By providing free breast cancer screening, the state respects everyone's right to early detection and timely treatment, particularly women who are more vulnerable to the disease, regardless of their financial situation," the CHR said.