QC assessor assures public: No 500% property tax increase, no tax on churches, ISFs

THE public should be wary of disinformation being circulated on a supposed 500 percent increase in real property taxes and property taxes on churches and informal settler families (ISFs) in Quezon City, said an official of the Office of the City Assessor.

"Definitely, there will not be an increase of 500 percent in the real property taxes," said Sherry Gonzalvo, acting city assessor of Quezon City, in response to false information circulating that a hefty increase in real property taxes (RPT) is set to be implemented.

According to Gonzalvo, the Quezon City Council has implemented Ordinance 2778 suspending the implementation of the increase in fair market values which was supposed to be enacted under Ordinance 2556 in 2016.

Although there is a clear need to update Quezon City's fair market values, Gonzalvo agrees with the council's move to suspend the implementation due to the rising prices of commodities.

"They say the churches will be taxed. Definitely, churches are not taxable because they are exempt under the local government code," Gonzalvo clarified.

Even if the updated fair market values were to take effect, Gonzalvo also reminded Quezon City taxpayers that the RPT increase would only be marginal, clarifying that an increase in fair market values would not jack up the actual tax to be paid.