- Waste management

'Waste mgmt to aid QC versus dengue outbreak'

BusinessMirror · 17 Feb 2025 · A4 · By Jonathan L. Mayuga @jonlmayuga

ENVIRONMENT advocates are urging Quezon City (QC) residents to properly manage waste stem rising dengue cases following the recent declaration of an outbreak.

"We are one with the QC Government in promoting measures that will halt the spiraling cases of dengue viral infections that have so far claimed the lives of 10 residents, mostly children," said Jove Benosa of the Ecowaste Coalition.

QC Mayor Maria Josefina Tanya "Joy" G. Belmonte has called on her constituents to safe-guard children against the deadly disease.

"Nananawagan ako sa mga kapwa ko magulang na sama-sama nating protektahan ang ating mga anak laban sa dengue. Maging alerto tayo sa mga nararamdaman ng ating anak at manguna sa mga clean-up drive sa ating mga komunidad ," Belmontes aid.

The City Epidemiology and Surveillance Division of the QC Health Department recorded 1,769 dengue cases from January 1 to February 14. The cases affected mostly children. Ten residents, including eight minors, have succumbed to the virus to date.

"As a QC- based organization advocating for zero waste resource management, we appeal to all waste generators to put the QC Environment Code [City Ordinance SP- 2350, series of 2014] into practice to help beat the dengue outbreak," Benosa said. The group, which he helps as "Zero- Waste" Campaigner, is currently implementing sustainable community waste management projects in densely- populated barangays Bagbag and Bagong Silangan in collaboration with local authorities and organizations.

City Ordinance SP- 2350 contains provisions "mandating all households, commercial and business establishments, industries and institutions to maintain the cleanliness of their premises at all times," and "to segregate domestic waste at source into compostable/ bio-degradable, recyclable, residual and special waste."

"Abiding by these requirements of the QC Environment Code, as well as Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, will deprive Aedes aegypti, the mosquito that can spread the dengue virus, with spots to lay eggs," said Benosa, noting that "improperly disposed of trash can catch water where dengue mosquitoes can breed."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "applying many of the basic prin-ciples [of solid waste management] can contribute substantially to reducing Aedes aegypti larval habitats," stressing that "proper storage, collection and disposal of waste are essential for protecting public health."

In support of the QC government- led drive to curb the dengue outbreak, the Ecowaste Coalition urged citizens to bear the following reminders: segregate discards at the source, keeping non- biodegradables dry and clean; check and remove standing water in your home and neighborhood; and, keep containers and anything that can collect water in a dry place.

Likewise, the group urges citizens to: cover water tanks, drums, and pails with lids or mosquito- proof mesh; drain and clean water containers thoroughly once a week; change water in flower vases weekly; and, loosen soil in potted plants to prevent water from stagnating on the surface.

Citizens are also urged to: flip the pot plate to remove excess water; clean pet drinking bowls daily; cut or puncture tires used as roof support to avoid collecting water; and, clear blocked roof drains to avoid water ponding.

The Ecowaste Coalition also took the opportunity to caution the public from buying and using unregistered household insecticides, mosquito coils, and antimosquito lotions, patches, sprays, and the like, which have not been duly verified for quality and safety by the Food and Drug Administration before sale.

The use of such unauthorized products may pose health and environmental risks, the group pointed out.