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Belmonte takes oath before chief justice

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QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Monday began her third and final term as the local chief executive following an oath-taking ceremony administered by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo.

Subsequently, other elected city officials led by 1st District Rep. Juan Carlos "Arjo" Atayde and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto also took their oath of office before the chief magistrate at the M.I.C.E. Center, City Hall Complex.

Aside from the councilors from the city's six districts, those who took their respective oath of office were 3rd District Rep. Franz Pumaren, 4th District Rep. Jesus Manuel Suntay, 5th District Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas and 6th District Rep. Maria Victoria Co Pilar.

It was not immediately known why 2nd District Rep. Ralph Wendel Tulfo, son of Sen. Raffy Tulfo, was not around to take his oath.

Now on her last term as the city's highest elective official, Belmonte vowed to sustain her programs, especially on good governance, inclusivity and innovation, among others.

"We will continue to raise the bar of local governance, providing services that are responsive, efficient and equitable for all," Belmonte said.

She has also committed to carry out reforms against inefficiency and wasteful spending.

"We broke away from the same cycles and practices that have so long made bureaucracy complacent and detached from the people.

But we proved them wrong. We challenged the status quo and created a government that works for the people," the mayor said.

Belmonte vowed to have more scholars while social programs would be further strengthened.

"Housing for city residents will be prioritized, the electric bus service will continue and the culture and tourism will be extensively propagated," she said.

Drainage projects would also be prioritized to mitigate and control flooding.