QC postpones plastic ban

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MAYOR Josefina Belmonte has postponed the implementation of the ordinance banning the use of single- use plastics in Quezon City from February 15 to July 1 due to "needed logistical adjustments" on the part of stakeholders.

"We understand the situation and concerns of the establishments; so, we will give them ample time to comply," Belmonte said.

She said restaurants and hotels have been given until July 1 to fully comply with the ordinance.

"After that, it will be all systems go for the implementation of the ordinance," she added.

The postponement was recommended by the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD) after a series of dialogues with stakeholders, including restaurants, fastfood chains and hotels.

Ordinance 2876 prohibits the distribution and use of singleuse plastics and other disposable materials, including cutlery for dine- in purposes, in all hotels and restaurants in Quezon City.

The ban covers the use of throwaway plates, spoons, forks, cups, and other plastic and paper disposables

Meanwhile, the stakeholders raised several concerns in terms of food safety and hygiene, logistical concerns and requirements and other issues regarding hotel and restaurant operations.

The deferment of the ordinance's implementation would provide stakeholders time to come up with a transition plan.

EPWMD head Andrea Villaroman said the plan, to be submitted within 30 days from February 15, would include the introduction of recovery and recycling mechanisms for single- use plastics and other disposable materials.

The EPWMD will coordinate with the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability to develop the recovery and recycling mechanisms for residual plastics and disposable materials.

Villaroman, meanwhile, said the implementation of the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance, which started on January 1, was being followed by most of the relevant retailers.

"Personnel of the Climate Change team of this department will be deputized for them to issue notices of violation or environmental violation tickets," she added.