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Joy supports 'Smart City' anti-crime tack

QUEZON City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte has backed the Quezon City Police Districts' "Smart City" crime prevention measures employing cutting-edge technology.

Belmonte had met with Chief Supt. Joselito Esquivel, who had briefed her about the "Smart City" concept, and said she was convinced such might make an unprecedented difference in the city government's anti-crime efforts and crime prevention campaign.

"I think we should really provide police and emergency services with new technologies to fight crimes and make our city safer. And we must admit that public security is a growing problem for cities not just here in our country but also worldwide," she said.

"[Esquivel] was asking me to support him on this and I said, of course, we'll support him," she added.

As an information technology expert, Esquivel suggested the need to purchase some analytical tools to reinforce the local police's crime surveillance and prevention capabilities.

The vice mayor said despite hundreds of closed circuit television cameras already installed around Quezon City, there are times most video surveillance technology is inefficient because of blind spots and low-quality imagery.

"But if you have analytics, algorithms will tell you there's something wrong. General Esquivel believes that with analytics, you can solve or prevent street crimes," she said.

Widely used in many United States of America and European cities, "Smart City" solutions use different types of electronic data collection sensors to supply information which are used to manage assets and resources efficiently, she said. **Rio N. Araja**