

PH-Israel friendship park to rise in QC Circle

By **ALEXANDRIA DENNISE SAN JUAN**

A park that will honor the Philippines for saving the lives of Jewish refugees during the second World War will be built inside the Quezon Memorial Circle, the city government recently said.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista led the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Ephraim Ben Matityau for the construction of a Philippines-Israel Friendship Park.

The Philippines-Israel Friendship Park will feature a special marker in honor of President Manuel Quezon for saving the lives of over 1,000 Jewish refugees during the second World War, and also to commemorate the Philippines' vote in favor of the partition of Palestine and the recreation of the state of Israel.

"This signing ceremony is about the establishment of a marker, special monument in Quezon Memorial Circle which is going to honor the unique

friendship between Israel and the Philippines," Matityau said after the MOU signing held at the Quezon City Hall over the week.

According to the Israeli Ambassador, the monument will be dedicated to Manuel Quezon, Manuel Roxas, and Elpidio Quirino as the president and vice president in 1947 for saving Jewish refugees to enter the Philippines during Nazi dictator Adolf

Hitler's reign.

The Quezon City government together with the Embassy of Israel and President Elpidio Quirino Foundation, Inc. already broke ground for the Friendship Park last December 2017.

Matityau said that the park will be a great sign of friendship and it demonstrates the unique relationship of Israel and the Philippines.