

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte (center) presents the of Seal of Excellence to 55 lying-in clinics fully compliant with the DOH's requirements. With the city leader are (from left) medical doctors Mary Rochelle Paulino and Esperanza Arias, Unilab's Claire Papa and Lilia Borlagdan.
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Top lying-in clinics get QC Seal of Excellence

FOR being fully compliant with the standards of the Department of Health (DoH) and the local government requirements for health facilities rendering services for maternal and child health, the Quezon City government, through the Quezon City Health Department, recognized 55 out of 80-plus registered private lying-in clinics located in the city with Seal of Excellence.

The recognition was implemented by virtue of a city ordinance that refers to the quality label for those who have achieved all essential maternal, neonatal and child health indicators.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte lauded all the awardees and noted that the Seal of Excellence award "promotes healthy competition, encourages innovation, fosters a culture of excellence and nurtures collaboration that leads to a win-win situation."

The award has indeed inspired many to level up, from only 23 percent compliance when it was launched in 2016, this year, 63 percent are already compliant.

The mayor posed a challenge during the summit for compliance to be 100 percent by next year. Once the goal is met, she intends to make the Seal of Excellence as Quezon City's entry to the Galing Pook Award, which recognizes the best practices of LGUs all over the country.

According to Quezon City Health Department officer in charge (OIC) Esperanza Anita Escano-Arias, both the 100-percent compliance and Galing Pook qualification are doable as long as the commitment and collaboration of all the parties involved remain strong.

"Whether we will meet that goal or not is entirely up to the private lying-in clinics, because they will be the ones to implement the standards. They should embrace and own it. We are just here to support them," she said.

Leading pharmaceutical and healthcare company Unilab Inc. is the partner of the city government and the clinics to achieve their goals.

"We have a good synergy and long-standing partnership with Quezon City in terms of ensuring high quality of healthcare provided to the residents, particularly the mothers and their children," Unilab Head for External Affairs and Social Partnerships Claire Papa said.

The Seal of Excellence is a joint undertaking of the Quezon City Health Department and Unilab as part of the long term advocacy on maternal and child health.