THE PHILIPPINE STAR 18 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

QC to transform Chinatown into tourism hub

Quezon City's Chinatown will be developed into a tourism district, Vice Mayor and tourism czar Joy Belmonte said yesterday.

"We have created a design plan to further develop the area," Belmonte said as the city prepared for the annual Chinese New Year celebration in Chinatown along Banawe street yesterday.

"There is already a pending measure before the city council that seeks to declare the Quezon City Chinatown as a tourism district," she added.

Once approved, Belmonte said the measure will set restrictions on the designs of buildings that will be erected in the area.

"We are also talking to investors to bring more businesses," the vice mayor added, noting that she has also ordered authorities to ensure peace and order in the district.

The Quezon City Chinatown was officially launched in 2013 in a bid to develop Banawe street – known for its automobile parts and accessories businesses – into "an attractive and convenient destination for tourists, visitors, patrons and investors."

Its development as a special economic growth area was provided under an ordinance approved by Speaker Feliciano Belmonte during his term as mayor in 2005.

– **Janvic Mateo**

Manila Standard Today
A6 | MONDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Lunar year set in QC Chinatown

THE Quezon City government has partnered with the QC Association of Filipino-Chinese Businessmen Inc. and the QC Chinatown Development Foundation Inc. to celebrate on February 19 the Chinese New year.

Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte will lead city officials

in Chinatown District's festivities along Banawe St., lining up a fireworks display, lion and dragon dance, cultural and musical performances and Feng Shui forecasts.

Orgsanizers said a countdown will be hosted by the QC Chinatown Buusiness Association Inc. on February 18 on Banawe corner Quezon Avenue.

Food establishments will offer special discounts and promos, forming part of QC's continuing celebration of its diamond jubilee.

The QC Tourism Department has invited House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua to Banawe, a special economic growth area under Ordinance 1573 approved by Speaker Belmonte during his term as QC mayor on October 12, 2005.

A motorcade will start at 4 p.m. on Feb. 19 at the corner of Banawe and Quezon Avenue joined by members of the QC Council in District I; reigning Miss Quezon City and her court; officers and members of the Banawe Auto Parts and Accessories Association as well as executives of the barangay councils of Sto. Domingo, Lourdes, Siena, St. Peter, Manresa, Tatalon and Doña Josefa.

Vice Mayor Belmonte, also tourism officere-in-charge, has ordered the city's department of public order and safety to add traffic enforcers to ensure orderly movement of vehicles.

Cultural presentations will be held by students from Philippine Cultural College, Philadelphia College, Lourdes School of Quezon, Angelicum College, Ramon Magsaysay High School and the National Orthopedic Hospital–School for Crippled Children.

THE DAILY tribune
Sunday, February 2, 2014 4

Bautista, Belmonte, Sino officials lead Lunar Year festivities on Banawe Street

Quezon City's very own Chinatown on Banawe Street has been host to QC's celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte led city officials in the celebration last Friday.

The mayor, in his speech, stressed the importance of promoting cooperation, peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding between Filipinos and Chinese communities to strengthen the spirit of friendship between two diverse cultures.

QC's lunar year festivities, hosted by the QC government in partnership with the QC Chinatown Development Foundation Inc., QC Association of Filipino-Chinese Businessmen Inc. and the Banawe Auto Parts and Accessories Association, featured fireworks display, lion and dragon dance, cultural performances, street party and outdoor market that highlighted the colorful and diverse Chinese culture.

Chinese Consul General Shen Zhi Cheng was among those present during the festivities which were witnessed by members of the Quezon City Press Club.

Hosting this year's Chinese New Year celebration was expected to further transform the Banawe commercial area into a world-class Chinatown hub, according to Bautista and Belmonte.

The *Tribune* was told that two Chinatown arches were installed on Banawe Street in September last year as part of a concerted effort to transform the area into an authentic Chinatown district.

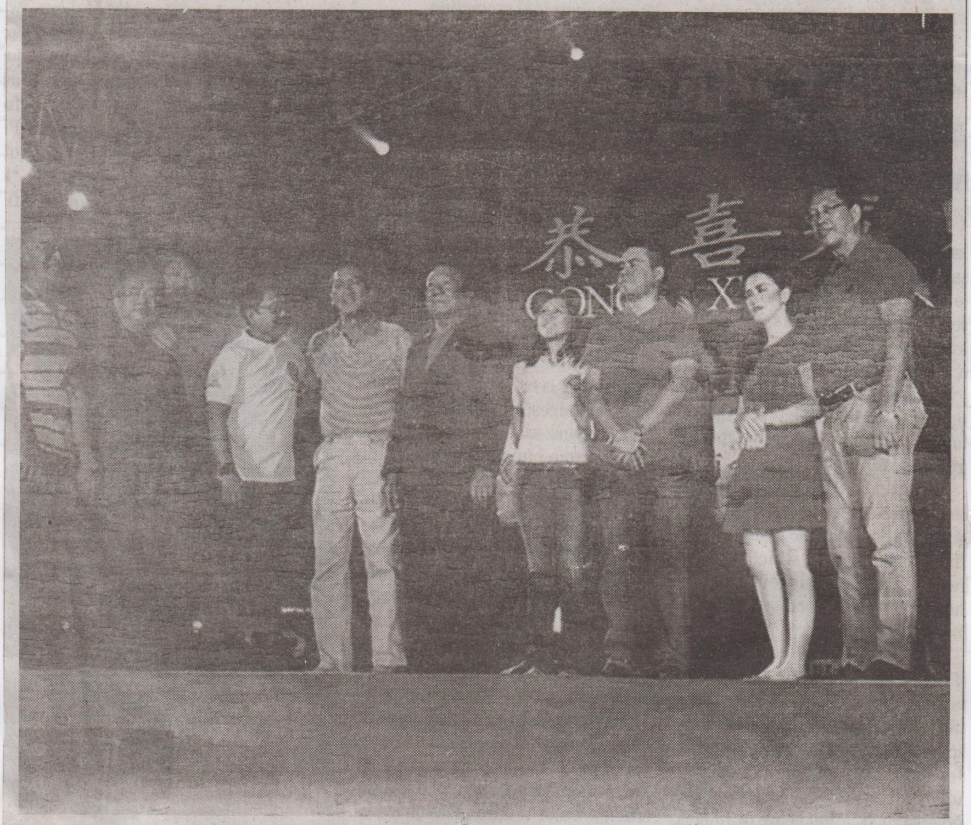
The development of Banawe Street as a special economic growth area is provided under Ordinance 1573.

The vicinity traversed by Banawe Street from E. Rodriguez to Sgt. E. Rivera areas has been declared as Banawe special economic growth area.

The city's comprehensive zoning ordinance classifies Banawe Street as a major commercial zone.

Also present during the occasion were Rep. Winston Castelo, members of the QC Council, Phil. Chinese Charitable Association representative James Dy, QC Chinatown Development Foundation Chairman Charles Chen, QCAFCBI officers and other city government officials.

Arlie O. Calalo



Quezon City government headed by QC Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, businessmen, Dr.

THE DAILY TRIBUTE

Friday, October 4, 2013 2

Unveiling of Chinatown arch strengthens QC gov't, China ties

By Arlie O. Calalo



BAUTISTA



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The unresolved territorial dispute between China and the Philippines has not dampened the spirit of Filipino and Chinese cooperation in Quezon City in their common pursuit of a better future and a more productive relationship that will prove beneficial to their communities and to the city.

During Wednesday's unveiling of the QC Chinatown arch on Banawe Street, Mayor Herbert Bautista assured the Chinese community of the city's continuing support to their welfare and protection as they also play a very significant role in the development of Quezon City.

"The Quezon City Chinatown arch symbolizes a strong bond of friendship among two diverse cultures. With our continuing partnership, I look forward to the sustained progress and prosperity of Quezon City," the mayor said.

To date, the mayor added the city government takes pride in being a sister city to Yuci City of Shansi Province and Shenyang City. It is also looking forward to finally entering another sister city relationship with Nanjing to further strengthen QC's relationship with the Chinese people.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., who was instrumental for the development of Banawe Street as a special economic growth area, said the Chinatown arch symbolizes partnership in a real sense between the Filipino and Chinese communities.

"More than the shared history of culture, economic and blood ties between the Filipino and the Chinese people, the arch provides a new dimension to the future and productive relationship between the Philippines and China," Belmonte said.

Chinese Ambassador Ma Ke Qing, who was also a guest at the unveiling of the QC Chinatown arch, described the occasion as an opportune time to strengthen Philippine-China relationship.

"Let us do our best to create a brighter future and a more productive relationship between the Philippines and China," the ambassador said.

During the occasion, the Chinese ambassador noted that the inauguration of the Chinatown arch in QC also served as fitting tribute to the celebration of the 64th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

Coincidentally, both Belmonte and the Chinese ambassador celebrated their birthdays that same day.

After the unveiling ceremony, the Chinese ambassador was given arrival honors at QC Hall. There she was given the exchange of pleasantries with other city government officials and executives.

The development of the Banawe Street commercial area as the Chinatown of Quezon City forms part of a concerted effort to transform the area into a world-class Chinatown hub, according to Bautista.

Chinatown Development Foundation chairman Charles Chen, meanwhile, said the arch project is expected to enhance the city's tourism and trade investments, especially in the Banawe commercial area, which is being developed as a new Chinatown in Metro Manila.

The development of Banawe Street as a special economic growth area is being undertaken as authorized by Ordinance 1573 which was approved by the House Speaker during his term as QC mayor on Oct. 12, 2005.

As provided for under the ordinance, QC will be setting aside P2 million to cover the development of projects for the Banawe special economic growth area. The vicinity traversed by Banawe Street from E. Rodriguez to Sgt. E. Rivera has been declared as Banawe special economic growth area.

The Tribune was told that the city's comprehensive zoning ordinance classifies Banawe Street as a major commercial zone.

#QC - China Town in Banawe, Quezon City

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

PEOPLE&EVENTS

p. C-6 Editor: TONY F. KATIGBAK OCTOBER 13, 2010



QC CHINATOWN ARCH PROJECT: Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. joins Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte in a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Chinatown arch at Banawe Street in QC. Chinatown Development Foundation chair Charles Chen (3rd from left) says the arch project will enhance the city's tourism and trade investments, especially in the Banawe commercial area, which is being developed as a new Chinatown in Metro Manila. Joining them in the ceremony are foundation vice chairmen Bonifacio Lui and Leoncio Tan; treasurer William Li and John Kaw, secretary. Donors for the arch include Kaw, Anson Tan and Larry Villareal.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

. Chinatown Arch - groundbreaking
. Banawe Commercial Area