# Inaugural Address of Quezon City Vice Mayor Ma. Josefina Belmonte

18TH Quezon City Council Inaugural Session
Carlos Albert Session Hall, Quezon City
August 16, 2010

Office of the Vice Mayor

Legislative Building,
Quezon City Hall Compound
444-4727

www.quezoncity.gov.ph

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Today, I perform the pleasant task of presiding over the Inaugural Session of the 18th Quezon City Council, with much pride. I am happy to tell you that our Mayor, himself a Vice-Mayor for twelve years, has wholeheartedly embraced the concept of shared leadership in our City's governance. This is unprecedented in recent years and unheard of in other local government units.

Sa simula't simula pa, siniguro nating naihahabi ang pag-iisip at pagkilos ng mga miembro ng ating Konseho at mga tagapangasiwa ng ating Lungsod. Ang pagtatag ng masigasig at malawakang pagtutulungan ng dalawang sangay ng pamahalaang lokal, ay kabilang sa unang hakbang ng ating administrasyon. Asahan ninyo na tutungo sa mas angkop at mabilis na serbisyo, mas napapanahong reporma, at pangmatagalang kaunlaran ang kooperasyon sa pagitan ng executive at legislative. Pangako namin kay PNoy, "hindi kami magpapaalipin sa pulitikal na konsiderasyon, na magiging sagabal sa kapakanan ng taumbayan."

Shared leadership however, is also shared responsibility and accountability, and we are eager to accept the challenge of being leaders with nothing to hide. We are determined to be the breed of transformative leaders our country needs to enhance the people's trust and confidence in the institutions of government.

- TAYO ang magiging bagong mukha ng pamumunong may pananagutan;
- TAYO ang magiging tagapagtatag ng bagong sukatan ng epektibong pangangasiwa;
- TAYO ang magsisilbing batayan ng kahusayan sa paglilingkod-bayan.

## SELF-RELIANCE AS OUR SOCIAL GOAL

Our City has been the recipient of much praise in the past nine years. Indeed we have made great leaps in fiscal management, enhancing our investment climate, and infrastructural initiatives. These have led to remarkable gains in our economy and put us on the road towards becoming one of the most competitive cities in Asia. We agree with observations, however, that real progress and development are only at hand if we achieve a more equitable distribution of the City's wealth to the extent that even the most marginalized of our constituents feels a positive change in his or her life.

Thus, we are one with the Mayor in charting a policy agenda that prioritizes more direct and specific interventions that can lead to significant and sustainable improvements in the lives of our people. We are not advocating social change based on a culture of dependence on government. Instead, we aim to empower our people towards achieving self-reliance by creating an environment, through policy, that will enable them to achieve prosperity through their own efforts, their own creativity and their own perseverance.

Hangad natin na sa pamamagitan ng ating mga ordinansa, mababawasan o tuluyang matanggal ang mga limitasyong gumagapos sa pag-usbong ng sariling kagalingan ng ating mga mamamayan.

## PAT ORDINANCE

Alinsunod sa ating layunin na palakasin ang kakayahan ng ating mga mamamayan, ang pagpapatupad ng Participation, Accountability and Transparency o PAT Ordinance ang isa sa ating mga prayoridad. Sa pamamagitan ng mekanismong ito, higit na madarama ng ating ordinaryong mamamayan na sila'y kabahagi ng pamahalaan – na ang kanilang pananaw at tinig ay hindi lamang kailangan kundi kritikal sa pagsulong ng ating Lungsod.



## THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA MAPPING SYSTEM

Bilang paghahanda sa mga gagawing panukalang batas ng ating Konseho sa pagpapalakas ng kakayahan ng ating mga mahihirap, nananawagan ako sa ating Executive Department na gawing prayoridad ang pagsasagawa ng isang Socio-Economic Data Mapping System (SEDMS) upang makatulong sa Konseho sa pagdisenyo ng mga batas at programa na tunay na aakma sa mga pangangailangan ng ating mga pinaglilingkuran.

Ang SEDMS ay isang survey na magbibigay ng mukha sa konkretong kalagayan ng ating lungsod upang maiwasan natin ang pag-aksaya ng ating yaman sa mga programang di naman natin masusukat.

Sa pamamagitan ng SEDMS, malalaman natin, halimbawa, kung sinu-sino ang mga pamilyang nagugutom; ilan ang walang sapat na kabuhayan; sinu-sino ang walang health insurance; ilan ang walang kakayahang makapagpaaral; saan di umaabot ang mga batayang serbisyo ng ating pamahalaan; at anu-ano ang mga pangangailangan ng bawat sector, lalung-lalo na ang mga bulnerableng sector katulad ng persons with disabilities, solo parents at senior citizens. Halos lahat ng datos na kailangan natin upang makapagbuo ng mga polisiya at programa na direktang tutugon sa mga pangunahing suliranin ng ating mga mamamayan ay ilalatag ng SEDMS.

Just like loving parents who take pains to learn what ails a suffering child, a responsive government must take the steps necessary to know each and everyone of its constituents, in order to provide targeted interventions that ensure an improved quality of life for all.

## THE 5-WAY TEST OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Sa paggawa ng mga batas, nais kong hikayatin ang ating Konseho na gawing batayan ang 5-WAY TEST of Social Development upang sukatin kung tunay nga bang mabisa, nararapat at naitataguyod (or sustainable) ang mga batas na ating isusulong:

- Una, nakakatulong ba ang panukalang batas sa layuning palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga mamamayang tugunan ang sarili nilang pangangailangan?
- Pangalawa, naisaalang-alang ba ang pananaw ng mga pangunahing sector na may kaugnayan sa batas? Nagkaroon ba ng konsultasyon at akmang pananaliksik sa magiging epekto ng batas?
- Pangatlo, ang ating mga batas ba ay napapanahon at tumutugon sa kasalukuyang pangangailangan ng ating lungsod?
- Pang-apat, ito ba ay naayon at sumusuporta sa pangkalahatang direksyon ng ating lungsod?
- Panglima, ito ba ay simple, madaling maunawaan at walang kinikilingan?

## ADDRESSING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

I am confident that the guiding principles of the 5-WAY TEST, together with the SEDMS as a policy instrument, are the best tools the members of the City Council can use to propose responsive and sustainable policy solutions to the problems of poverty in our City.

The United Nations has called on all countries to unite and pool resources in order to wage war against poverty worldwide. There is no reason why the City known all over the country as the 'richest city in the Philippines' cannot increase its resolve to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, that is, to reduce the number of its poor by half by the year 2015.



To expand the reach and impact of our local government's efforts, I call on the private sector to partner with us. Your corporate social responsibility programs show us that corporations are good community builders and human capacity empowerers, as well. Imagine how much more good we can achieve, if we have a complementation of poverty alleviation strategies.

I seek the support of the City Council, to include among its priorities, policy interventions in the areas of: food sufficiency, primary health care, education, housing, job and livelihood opportunities, peace and order, basic rights protection, environmental sustainability, and other socio-economic policy mechanisms that aim to increase business and investment opportunities and develop our micro, small and medium enterprises.

With our concerted efforts, we can make significant gains in poverty reduction within our three-year term, and we can boast to the international community that in Quezon City, working towards quality of live for all is serious business.

## THE 18TH CITY COUNCIL

Ang ating Konseho ngayon ay punung-puno ng pag-asa. Nasa ating mga kamay ang pagkakataon na iangat ang antas nang gawaing pang-lehislatura. Binubuo kami ng mga bago at beteranong konsehal. Bata ang karamihan sa amin, na sa tingin ko ay magtatakda ng isang masigla, aktibo at progresibong pangkat. This means an openness to innovation, and an inclination for out-of-the-box approaches and solutions to old problems. On the other hand, our veteran councilors, like Councilors Jaime Borres and Francisco Calalay, with their accumulated wisdom and years of experience will provide balance and a sense of perspective to the idealism of our young ones.

The previous City Council approved 269 ordinances and 1152 resolutions. To date, the 18th Council has filed 30 ordinances and 29 resolutions. Hindi pa tayo pormal na nagsisimula ay pinatunayan na natin ang kasipagan sa pagtupad ng ating mga tungkulin.

## EDUCATION

Naniniwala ako na sa konsehong ito, mapagtutuunan ng kaukulang atensyon ang pangangailangan ng mga kabataan, lalo na ang suliranin sa edukasyon at trabaho. I know that our Sangguniang Kabataan representive Alexis Grace Matias will be first to affirm that the youth sector comprises the largest chunk of our city's population, and the biggest bulk of our productive potential. Through the support of our young councilors, we will legislate program mechanisms that will encourage and reward educational curriculum offerings and programs that better match industry needs, as well as build the quality human resource pool that will make Quezon City globally competitive.

After the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) boom, the trend seems to be leading towards Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO). We can be among the first cities to take advantage of this international trend by creating an environment conducive to mutually productive program partnerships with the private sector. Perhaps Councilor Allan Reyes can spearhead this.

Inaasahan din natin na prayorided ng Executive Department ang higit pang pagandahin ang mga pasilidad ng ating mga pampublikong paaralan, pagkakaroon ng sapat na computer laboratory sa bawat eskuwelahan, at palawakin ang programang magbibigay scholarships sa ating mga mahihirap na estudyante. Tiyak na tutulong diyan sina Councilors Racquel Malangen, Marvin Rillo at Pinggoy Lagumbay.

## LIVELIHOOD

Sa mga out-of-school youth na nagnanais ng kaukulang pagsasanay upang magkaroon ng kakayanan na tugunan ang kanilang pangangailangan, susugan natin ang panukala ni Councilor Edcel Lagman, Jr. na i-institutionalize ang Alternative Learning System.

Palawakin din natin ang oportunidad ng mga mahihirap sa maayos na pangangalakal. Studies show direct, positive links between parents' economic capacity, and a child's capability



to stay in school. Pagnatulungan natin ang nanay o tatay na magkaroon ng maayos na hanapbuhay, mas malaki ang tsyansa na ang kanilang anak ay tuloy-tuloy ang pag-aaral.

Pagyabungin natin ang pagnenegosyo ng ating mga mahihirap, sa tulong ng training at capital. There are still many improvements we can do in microenterprise generation. I encourage our Councilors to strengthen our Sikap Buhay program, so that its beneficiaries not only increase in number, they also significantly improve in economic capacity in a sustainable manner. Maybe Councilor Joseph Juico can lead the way.

## HEALTH

Alinsunod sa policy direction na itinakda ng ating Punong Lungsod, prioridad sa ating lehislatura ang kalusugan ng ating mga residente sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalakas ng mga batayang serbisyo ng health centers. Ang mga health centers ay hindi lang frontline sa pagbibigay lunas sa mga simpleng karamdaman, kung hindi magiging frontline sa pangangalaga ng kalusugan ng ating komunidad. We will espouse preventive medical programs that will make our health centers, exponents and trainors of wellness and good healthy living, especially in poor communities.

Hinihakayat ko ang ating mga konsehal na i-sentro din sa ating mga health center, ang kanilang iba't ibang programang pang-kalusugan, kamukha ng medical missions, dental missions, feeding programs at iba't iba pa. Tulong-tulong nating gawing institusyon ng kalusugan sa ating mga komunidad ang ating health centers.

I encourage the Committee on Health, headed by Councilor Jessica Daza with the help of Councilor Don De Leon to review existing and pending legislation in this area. Marami pa tayong polisiyang maaring gawin upang pangalagaan ang kalusugan ng mamamayan ng Quezon City.

An Integrated Sports Development Program will be the priority legislative agenda of Councilor Gian Sotto; and already we have two measures filed by Councilor Alfred Vargas to ensure the right to accessibility of PWDs.

Si Konsehal Precious Hipolito Castelo ay magsusulong ng kasiguraduhan sa palupa ng mga maralitang tagalungsod.

Magbibigay proteksyon si Konsehal Alexis Herrera sa mga tricycle operators at drayber.

Councilor Godie Liban will provide free legal assistance and ensure that those who have less in life will have more in law.

Councilor Concepcion Malangen will work to enhance the capability building of our barangay officials.

Councilor Ally Medalla and Councilor Candy Medina will be the champions of women and children in the City Council.

Councilor Dorothy Delarmente will push for a smoke-free and plastic free QC, in keeping with our stronger environmental thrust in Quezon City.

## TOURISM

Ang pagtuklas ng mga nakatago at di pa nalilinang na potensyal ng Quezon City ay isang adbokasiyang malapit sa puso ng Inyong Lingkod..

I enjoin you to help us in our task of formulating Quezon City's Tourism Development Plan and Tourism Code, as well as support an ordinance creating the Quezon City Tourism Department. We look to Councilor Rhoderick Paulate to lead us in this endeavor. Through these measures, we will make an inventory of our City's tourism resources, accredit and standardize our tourism-related services, assess and develop our tourism investment potential, create a high quality international image, identify and develop tourism zones, and initiate high-profile events. Our revitalized



tourism program will stimulate businesses that can fuel our economy, and generate downstream income opportunities for many sectors, rich and poor alike.

## CONCLUSION

Libre nga naman ang mangarap, ngunit hindi libre ang pagsasakatuparan ng ating mga pangarap. Kinakailangang may pagtataya. Tataya ang ating Punong Lungsod sa pamamagitan ng serbisyong maibibigay ng ating pamahalaan. Ako, at ang ating konseho ay tataya rin sa pamamagitan ng pagsagawa ng mga batas na magbibigay daan sa maayos na implementasyon ng mga programa ng ating Lungsod. Kayo rin ay nararapat na tumaya. Sabi nga ni P-Noy "sama-sama tayo sa isang matuwid na daan, sama-sama tayo sa wastong pamamahala."

Kung ako'y hihiram sa mga panulat ni W. Edwards Deming, "hindi sapat na gagawin natin ang ating buong makakaya, HIGIT SA LAHAT, kinakailangan na ALAM NATIN kung ano ang ating dapat gawin, at saka natin gawin ang ating buong-buong makakaya."

Para sa ating mga lider ng Lungsod Quezon, ang daan na tatahakin ay tungo sa kaginhawaan ng buhay sa nakararami sa ating mga kababayan.

Sa ngayon, di pa gaanong matuwid ang daan na ito. Ngunit sa ating pagtutulungan, pagpupunyagi at inspirasyon ng magandang hangarin, kaya nating palawakin at pagandahin ang daan ng kaginhawaan. Ito ang pangakong masugid nating itutupad para sa ating mahal ng Lungsod.

# THE 18TH QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

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Hon. Ma. Josefina Belmonte

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