- Public welfare

Quality service for a better life: Mayor Joy delivers 6th SOCA

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Mayor Maria Josefina "Joy" Belmonte vowed to pursue the city government's priority to improve the quality of life of all Qcitizens.



Belmonte made the vow when she delivered her 6th State of the City Address (SOCA) on Monday, October 21, at the M.I.C.E. building, Quezon City Hall complex.

"Sa ₱39 billion na naaprubahang budget para sa 2024, higit kalahati ang nakalaan sa social services, sa kalusugan, edukasyon, pangkabuhayan, at pabahay, sa agarang pagtugon sa panahon ng krisis, at sa suporta ng mga kasamang iba't-ibang sektor (Out of the ₱39 billion approved budget for 2024, more than half is allocated to social services, health, education, livelihood, and housing, immediate response during crisis, and to support various sectors)," she said.

"Consistent nang priority ito sa nakalipas na mga taon dahil una sa agenda natin ang quality of life ng ating mga mamamayan (This had been our consistent priority in previous years - making better the quality of life of our citizens is first on our agenda)," she added.

Belmonte shared that the city is operating with zero debt since she assumed office in 2019.

"Mas mataas ang budget na ito, kumpara sa pondo natin five years ago. Pero hindi tayo nagtaas ng buwis, hindi tayo nagpataw ng dagdag na pasanin sa ating kapwa Qcitizen. At wala tayong pinagkakautangan, zero utang sa Quezon City. Ang susi, maayos at masinop tayo sa funding na pinagkatiwala sa atin (This budget is higher compared to the one that we had five years ago. But we did not raise taxes, we did not impose an extra burden on our fellow Qcitizens. And we have zero debt in Quezon City. The key here is the orderly and prudent use of the fund that was entrusted to us)," she stressed.

Belmonte also highlighted the city's digitalization efforts to provide better services to Qcitizens.

"I believe we are the most automated city in the whole Philippines," she added.

She also shared the city government's programs for business owners such accessible application and renewal of business permits, and her support for over 60,000 Qcitizens, including micro-entrepreneurs, solo-parents, overseas Filipino workers and their families, persons with disabilities, and indigents with a total of ₱621 million in capital assistance.

"All of these programs are proof that we are making economic empowerment within everyone's reach, especially for those who need it the most. Kapag sinabi natin, kasama ka sa pagunlad, hindi lang ito slogan, kundi isang pangako na ating pinaninindigan (All of these programs are proof that we are making economic empowerment within everyone's reach, especially for those who need it the most. When we say you will be part of this development, it is not just a slogan, but a promise that we will keep)," she said.

Quality healthcare

Belmonte also assured residents that they will receive the highest quality of healthcare.

She stated that with the support of the Universal Health Care Integrated Site, all Qcitizens will have access to free health services, including consultations, health risk screenings, various lab tests, and medications.

She also announced that the city government will continue to distribute free maintenance medications for hypertension and diabetes.

She also confirmed the city government's ongoing distribution of free maintenance medications for hypertension and diabetes. With the recent approval of various maintenance medicines in the National Drug Formulary. Qcitizens with other chronic health conditions will soon receive complimentary medications.

The mayor also announced that over 300,000 senior citizens will receive free vaccines against pneumonia and flu.

Belmonte highlighted that the city government employs a total of 79 doctors across 66 health centers, ensuring even larger barangays receive adequate healthcare.

Present during the SOCA were former speaker Sonny Belmonte Jr., Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, district representatives, councilors, and local government officials.