# WE CONNECT



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Hon. Mayor Herbert M. Bautista inspects the solar and battery operated E-trike introduced in Quezon City Hall last May 9, after the Monday flag ceremony.

A Quarterly Magazine of the Quezon City Government thru
the Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office (GADRCO)

April-June 2011

*From the Mayor's Office*

# The task of keeping our city clean is everyone's responsibility



One of the continuing challenges of Quezon City is to strike a balance between the demand for urban development and the need for preserving its green and open spaces. Although endowed with the widest open spaces in Metro Manila, the city's fast-growing population which now stands at over 2.9 million, has led to the conversion of more open spaces into subdivisions and condominiums as well as facilities like schools and commercial establishments. These developments, in turn, have put a tremendous strain on city services particularly our socialized housing and waste management programs.

To rise above the challenge, I recently adopted an urban development framework that connects economic development with environment management and disaster-risk reduction. Investing in disaster-risk mitigation not only saves lives, but also safeguards our social and economic infrastructure, and helps ensure that sources of livelihood and businesses are able to progress with less disruptions. We reduce disaster risk when we remove encroachments from riverbanks and other danger areas, adopt effective flood control mechanisms, and improve our waste disposal strategies.

Garbage is another problem caused by rapid development. One study shows that in cities where the standard of living is higher, there is usually a higher waste output. Quezon City's increasing population, exacerbated by the estimated 300,000 people who come to the city to work, generate an average of two tons of garbage daily.

This onerous litter situation prompted the City to be the first urban center to comply with the country's Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003), and we had since then institutionalized many of its practices through ordinances. Thus, I am making it a requirement for all those who live and work in Quezon City to become familiar with and abide by existing environmental laws and ordinances. Otherwise, they will be subject to the appropriate penalties.

To further strengthen our urban development framework, I directed the City Planning Office to develop a judicious land-use plan that promotes the optimal use of land resources. I want to make sure that the pace of urban development is such that it would provide our present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.

The new Quezon City Comprehensive Land Use Plan for 2010-2030 provides for the vision of the Quezon City as the "Green Lung of the Metropolis," recognizing that it has the most extensive expanse of greenery and open spaces in Metro Manila—about one-fifth of the city's total land area—as can be seen in our extensive park system spread all over the city.

The Plan adopts the modern trend towards balanced, mixed-use communities. This involves the creation of self-sufficient communities—integrating residential, business, retail and recreational components in one setting—where residents and visitors can live, work, shop, dine, and engage in leisurely activities. At the same time, these communities are designed to support green architecture and sustainable lifestyle practices. They are intended to be pedestrian-friendly and are walkable from end to end.

In addition, the Plan includes considerations for disaster-risk reduction and conservation of sensitive/critical ecosystems, especially around the city's reservoir. It clearly defines "Environmental Preservation Areas" (EPAs) or zones which are environmentally sensitive and where limited land use activities are allowed. These EPAs include major and special parks that are unique for its features and/or biodiversity, historical parks and shrines, community parks, green pockets and street parks. Once these areas are identified and clearly delineated, information campaigns are carried out to educate the people on the value of protecting these resources.

Our environment programs have been recognized as best practices not only by our local peers but also by various international institutions. But Quezon City can attain even greater heights in protecting the environment if the entire community is on board. Little things, like recycling and proper waste disposal, can go a long way when everybody makes a conscious effort to do it on a regular basis. After all, the environment is not only the responsibility of government; it is the responsibility of each and every citizen.

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*In this column we pay special tribute to a woman who has touched the personal and professional lives of women leaders, old and new, religious , activists and feminists, politicians, professionals and rural women... a great lady who have given us her vision for the rights and advancement of youth, women and families particularly in Quezon City .*



## 'UNLESS A LIFE IS LIVED FOR OTHERS, IT IS NOT

## FROM MY OFFICE WINDOW

By Mary Ruby M. Palma

Partylist and the QC government. All

*My little board gleaned*

the acquisition of housing and community-based services;

The innovations involving caring modes of detention, diversion and community continuum as alternatives to the incarceration of our youth offenders';

The debates on the congressional floor for women's rights, and the wisdom and leadership given to women's groups as the first sectoral

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# 'UNLESS A LIFE IS LIVED FOR OTHERS, IT IS NOT WORTHWHILE' - Leonor I. Luciano

## FROM MY OFFICE WINDOW

By Mary Ruby M. Palma

We like to take this opportunity as well to thank the family of Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, or Tita Leo, for sharing their mother with us and their permission to claim her too as our mother in Quezon City.

Justice Leonor Luciano died at the age of 91, last April 28, 2011. The obituary describes her as "wife, mother, educator, jurist and legislator, internationally-recognized civic leader, social worker, writer and columnist, builder of homes for juvenile delinquents, and advocate for the causes of women and children." And if I may add, outstanding farmer, outstanding alumni and citizen, lone Filipino Mother Teresa Awardee, friend and confidante. Indeed Tita Leo is Cool. Major. UppermCase. Big Time.

I said in the women's necrological event last May 28 that we ought to celebrate her passing, as death is as miraculous as birth. As the Persian poet Rumi puts it, "Death is our wedding with eternity."

Deepak Chopra, who wrote the masterpiece *Life After Death*, agrees that death is indeed a miracle, because it accomplishes miraculous things, such as the following:

- *Death replaces time with timelessness*
- *It stretches the boundaries of space to infinity*
- *It reveals the source of life*
- *It brings a new way of knowing that lies beyond the reach of the 5 senses*
- *It reveals the underlying intelligence that organizes and sustains creation*

The celebration of memories began April 28 at the Mount Carmel Church up to June 2 in the halls of Congress, where an exhibit and tribute for Tita Leo was held with the Congressional Committee of Women, Gabriella Partylist and the QC government. All her photos and memorabilias were utilized at the North Wing Lobby of the House of Representatives. There was a House resolution honoring her was presented to the Luciano family.

What is worth celebrating are the legacies of Tita Leo during her 91 years, too many to be mentioned here. I cannot help thinking that she did not leave us in March, where she still had to take part in the activities of Women's Month; she did not leave us in May, when all might have suffered in memory of her birthday. She left us somewhere in between, expanding her identity to include death and beyond. And as death is our wedding with eternity, so it is the fulfillment of our purpose on earth.

Through another poet's words, let me summarize a few of Tita Leo's legacies, most of which are directed to Quezon City's disadvantaged youth and their families and women:

*What Will You Give?*
*What will you give*
*When death knocks at your door?*
*The fullness of my life,*
*The sweet wine of autumn days and summer nights,*
*My little board gleaned*
*through the years,*
*And hours rich with living.*
*These will be my gift*
*When death knocks at my door.*

*- Rabindranath Tagore*

And if I were to answer this one for our Tita Leo, I would say:

The miracle of 111 cavans of rice produced per hectare at a time when super fertilizers were unknown;

The industry of farming, cooking, stuff toy-making and other skills bequeathed to urban poor and rural families as livelihood;

The millions in livelihood funds received by rural women nationwide as they formed 800 cooperatives;

The calm but wise negotiation skills with which fights between and among families, friends, and groups were handled and the judicious rulings for and in behalf of victims of violence;

The love and resolve with which 7,867 juvenile cases were disposed of and thousands of youth offenders and families given a new start through the acquisition of housing and community-based services;

The innovations involving caring modes of detention, diversion and community continuum as alternatives to the incarceration of our youth offenders';

The debates on the congressional floor for women's rights, and the wisdom and leadership given to women's groups as the first sectoral representative for women for two terms, and the victories later shared in passage of laws such as the anti-trafficking law ;

All the substantial writings - from magazine columns to legal advises to court pleadings and education, as information materials for youth, women and parents;

The building of institutions, foremost of which were cooperatives, and the University Center for Women's Studies Foundation;

The national goodwill and pride earned from prestigious awards, like the Mother Teresa Award, Outstanding Woman Farmer, Outstanding UP Alumni, Maryang Maya Award of Sigma Delta Phi Sorority, Pontifical Award, among others; and

The children and grandchildren she nurtured, and hundreds of women leaders, young and old, she mentored and helped in various ways, who will take on her vision, programs and examples.

These will be Tita Leo's gift when death knocks at her door.



# LEGAL FORUM

By Atty. Alma Martin

Dear Attorney,

Ang aking anak na dalagita na 15 taon gulang lamang (si Mel) ang aking suliranin.

Si Mel ay niligawan ni Butch, isang lalaking may-asawa na 30 taon gulang. Lingid sa aking kaalaman, si Mel ay binibigyan pala ni Butch ng pera, damit, sapatos, bag, at chocolate at dinadala sa mga sikat na lugar na pasyalan.

Akala ko naman ay abala lamang si Mel sa kanyang mga "extra-curricular activities" sa kanyang eskwelahan kung kaya't lagi siyang wala sa bahay.

Sapagka't apat silang magkakapatid at hindi naman kalakihan ang kinikita ko bilang "solo parent", nahumaling marahil ang anak ko kay Butch dahil sa naibibigay sa kanya ni Butch ang lahat na kanyang naisin. Kung kaya't ang naging kapalit nito ay ang pakikipagtalik sa kanya.

Nalaman ko na lamang ang tungkol sa kanilang bawal na relasyon nang nahuli ko silang naghahalikan sa may gate namin ng isang gabi. Umamin naman si Butch at sinabing handa niyang panagutan ang anak ko ngunit paano?

Ako ay nagalit, nadismaya, at nalungkot dahil sa nabigo kong pangarap na makapag-asawa si Mel ng isang binata kapag nakatapos na siya ng kanyang kurso.

Ano ang aking karapatan bilang isang ina sa ganitong sitwasyon?

Celia

Mahal kong Celia,

Ayon sa batas (RA 9710 Magna Carta of Women), ang mga babae ay may karapatang pumili ng kanilang mapapangasawa.

Nguni't dahil si Mel ay 15 taong gulang pa lamang, siya ay hindi pa pwedeng mag-asawa hangga't hindi pa siya nakakatuntong sa 18 taong gulang (Family Code of the Philippines).

Hindi rin pwede si Mel na pakasalan ni Butch sa dahilang may-asawa



# CONNECTING...

By Domini M. Torrevillas

*I'm pleased to be part of this magazine published by the Quezon City administration, through a staff put together by the QCGADRO, under the smart direction of Ruby Palma, one of the brightest women around. For one thing, she has a Ph.D. in public administration from the United Nations Educational Center (obtained after she got her masters in public administration from the UP, Diliman), and a post -graduate diploma in planning and resource allocation from the University of Maryland School of Public Affairs as a Fulbright fellow. Also, she was adjudged outstanding UP alumni when it celebrated its centennial year together with Ryan Cayabyab and Fidel Ramos, among others. Then she is too, columnist, a poet, essayist, dreamer, and a realist, too – and a two-time Women Helping Other Women awardee of Soroptimists Philippines.*

*This issue of WeConnect reports the accomplishments of the Quezon City administration under Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte-Alimurong (also a woman after my heart for her beautiful mind and commitment to service), such as infrastructure development, social programs going on in the barangays, programs like discounts on school supplies caravans to help families stretch their budgets, legal aid for abused women and children, and environmental concerns. There are articles on catch-up plans to minimize air pollution. Being tested are the e-tricycles which use electricity for fuel, thus reducing air pollution.*

The Quezon City programs are in tandem with the global efforts to deal with climate change. Mayor Bautista has ordered the retrofitting of buildings to make sure they can withstand seismic disasters.

You may have noticed the near-overflow on television and in print, of materials on greening the environment. Housing subdivisions are planted with trees, foliage and man-made lagoons. Leisure farms are in vogue. Streets are being lined with narra and mahogany. Houses are now brightened up and greened with various plants – in back yards and front yards, in bedrooms, on balconies, and rooftops.

Urban farming is in vogue. Let me introduce another woman who lives in Quezon City – Daphne Roxas, one of the organizers and executive director of Banahaw Sustainable Development, Ugnayan ng Kababaihan sa Pilipinas, and Asian Women's Network. In the Banahaw project, she has inspired women in less privileged barangay sections to grow herbs and vegetables. Pechay, tanglad, basil, tarragon, mint, kangkoy and camote are grown in empty cans and sold to various outlets and at conferences Daphne organizes for government and private organizations on leadership and governance.

I've spoken with some of the women in this project, and over cups of tea made out of tanglad and pandan and honey, they said they earn some money for a very enjoyable hobby. Before, they said, they simply stayed home and watched TV or made chit-chat with other idle women; now their hands are full tending their containerized plots of green.

We, too, can make our own backyard and rooftop gardens with the use of recycled containers -- old pots and pans, milk and cooking oil cans, plastic Coca-Cola and Pepsi cans, Jollibee styro glasses, pails and basins, and would you believe, discarded toilet bowls and bedpans (that we no longer use) and bathroom and kitchen sinks. On these we grow herbs that add nice scents to our surroundings, make cooking a pleasure, whet up our appetite, and provide our families with nutritious vegetable dishes and salads.

Let's join programs to make our environment safer and cleaner.

* * *

The first and last column of former Court of Appeals Justice Leonor Ines-Luciano came out in the last issue of WeConnect as she passed away soon after she submitted her piece. Justice Luciano was what we call "a compleat woman," whose concerns ranged from reforms for juvenile offenders, to farming, women, and environmental issues. She was specially sensitive to the needs of QCGADRCO. With her passing a light may have flickered – but now burns brightly in our hearts, forever thankful for the inspiration she gave us.

## FREE LEGAL SERVICES SCHEDULE

Umamin naman si Butch at sinabing handa niyang panagutan ang anak ko ngunit paano?

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Hindi rin pwede si Mel na pakasalan ni Butch sa dahilang may-asawa na siya. At kahit mapawalang-bisa pa ni Butch ang kasal niya ngayon (Article 36), hindi pa rin sila pwedeng makasal dahil wala pa si Mel sa hustong gulang ayon sa Family Code of the Philippines

Pero pwede kang magsampa ng demanda laban kay Butch sa ilalim ng RA 6710 (Anti-Child Abuse) dahil sa pang-aabuso at pagsasamantala niya kay Mel. Kahit pumayag si Mel sa pakikipagtalik kay Butch, hindi ito ang "consent" o pagsang-ayon na kinikilala ng batas.

Sana ay naliwanagan ka ng aming payo rito kung may oras ka puntahan mo ako dito sa 7/F Civic Center Bldg. A Gate 5 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City Hall Compound, Quezon City.

in tandem with the global efforts to deal with climate change. Mayor Bautista has ordered the retrofitting of buildings to make sure they can withstand seismic disasters.

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## FREE LEGAL SERVICES SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Tuesdays - 9:00am to 12:00 nn** | **Wednesdays - 1:00pm to 3:00pm** | **1st and 3rd Week of the month 1:00pm - 3:00pm** |
| **Venue :** | | |
| **Vice-Mayor's Office, Training Rm A or B Legislative Wing, QC Hall Cmpd., Quezon City** | **GADRCO, 7/F Civic Center Bldg. A, QC Hall Compound, Quezon City** | **Novaliches District Center (Mini City Hall) Jordan Plains, Novaliches Quezon City** |

**Contact us at:**
**(632) 444-7272 loc. 8732 / 8739**
**email: gadrco@quezoncity.gov.ph**

*Kahit sino ay maaring pumunta at kumunsulta sa aming tanggapan.*


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# QC, DTI to launch 'Diskwento Caravan'

City Administrator Victor Endriga said that the "Diskwento Caravan," which was held on June 7 and 8 at the Quezon City Hall compound, is part of the Bautista administration's efforts to provide the QC residents with direct access to the manufacturing industry as it intensifies its program for more affordable school supplies .

According to Endriga, school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, papers, coupon bonds, erasers, bags, and other school materials will be offered during the two-day caravan at reasonable prices, including the basic commodities for daily consumption.



QC Administrator Victor Endriga (center) is joined by DTI Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya (left) in checking some of the vegetables from Dupax del Norte in Nueva Viscaya during the two-day DTI-sponsored "Diskwento Caravan" at the QC Hall compound.

Some 80 to 100 manufacturing industries joined the Quezon City government and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in their "Diskwento Caravan" program whose goal is to minimize QC families' expenses for school children in line with the "Handog sa Bayan: Balik-eskwela" project of the city.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista directed all barangay officials to encourage their constituents to actively participate in this city government's thrust of providing affordable school supplies and basic commodities, most especially during the opening of classes.

Bautista is confident that the partnership between the city government and the DTI in the "Diskwento Caravan" project will strengthen the poverty alleviation program of the city and help students avail themselves of the school materials at a much lower cost compared with other stores offering the same school materials.

**(rico de leus / precy icban-torres)**

# Immunization free for infants in all Health Centers

Immunization is an essential health intervention for eligible children. It promotes health and protects children from vaccine-preventable diseases. These include: diphtheria, pertusis, tetanus poliomyelitis, measles, tuberculosis and hepatitis B.



Daily immunization services are made available in all health centers for under one-year-old children. Outreach clinics are conducted for areas not easily accessible. Vaccines being provided are BCG, DPT, OPV, AMV and Hepatitis B. A total of 79,066 (102%) and 19,936 (25%) children were given the primary immunization in 2010 and 2011 (1st quarter) respectively. They are considered fully immunized children. Though the FIC coverage was high, measles cases have increased. For 2010 Quezon City has registered 383 cases of measles and as early as February 2011, 44 cases were already reported. As a response to interrupt the transmission of the measles virus and prevent a potential outbreak from occuring, there is a need to conduct a supplemental activity.

This year, Quezon City Health Office, Dr. Antonieta Inumerable, implemented a mass measles immunization campaign dubbed as" Iligtas sa Tigdas ang Pinas." This is a strict door -to -door campaign conducted from April 4 to May 6, 2011 and extended until May 31, 2011. This entailed the giving of measles and rubella (MR) vaccine to children 9 months to 95 months (less than 8 years old), identifying households that have been visited through the use of stickers, and the issuing of immunization cards as proof that a child has been vaccinated. Vitamin A was given to children 6 months to 59 months of age.

From April 4, 2011 vaccination teams went to all household in the city, to vaccinate and give vitamin A to eligible children. The vaccination teams were able to visit 618,934 households and vaccinate 424,486 children in Quezon City.

# KmO Side by Side: Photo and Video Project in Public Spaces

Photo enthusiasts and distinguished guests from the Quezon City government and the French Embassy viewed the exceptional public photo exhibit entitled "KmO Side by Side Photo and Video Project in Public Spaces" May 4 at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Mayor Herbert M. Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy G. Belmonte gave their welcome remarks; Ambassador of

grandest and most colorful festivals in the Philippines, particularly celebrated annually in Cebu City, honoring the Sto. Niño. The celebration features the solemn procession of the Sto. Niño followed by the Sinulog dance, where devotees passionately dance armed with candles in hand and hope in their hearts that their petitions will be answered.

While watching the exhibit, we were convinced that the Philippines truly has a wide array of customs and traditions waiting to be unfolded through photographs. **(faye lauron)**



for the vehicles that we need now.

But as we are seeing today, using solar energy to move cars and other vehicles has been proven viable and can work for everyone.

government is doing its part to save the environment and the future.

With the city government introducing environment-friendly measures to sustain a livable community, QC

(left) in checking some of the vegetables from Dupax del Norte in Nueva Viscaya during the two-day DTI-sponsored "Diskwento Caravan" at the QC Hall compound.

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**(rico de leus / precy icban-torres)**

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Mayor Herbert M. Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy G. Belmonte gave their welcome remarks; Ambassador of France to the Philippines Thierry Borja de Mozota gave his message, director of the Niepce Museum M. Francois Cheval and cultural attaché Flora Geley provided an overview of KmO: Side by Side.

The project is a shared brainchild of French and Filipino artists Jake Versoza, Charles Freger, and Raya Martin. Distinctive photographic vocabulary brings to light two themes for this exhibit, which the changing world sweeps away -- the "The Last Tattooed Women of Kalinga" and the "Sinulog Fiesta."

KmO draws attention to the neglected Filipino heritage of traditional tattoo as an indigenous body art and as an expression of the psychological dimensions of life, health, and love. These days, only a minority of indigenous women engage in this traditional art brought about by the changing perspective on the meaning of the tattoo or "batok" and its stigmatized practice.

Further, the artists depict the Sto. Niño or the child Jesus in reverence of the Sinulog festival, one of the grandest and most colorful festivals in the Philippines, particularly celebrated annually in Cebu City, honoring the Sto. Niño. The celebration features the solemn procession of the Sto. Niño followed by the Sinulog dance, where devotees passionately dance armed with candles in hand and hope in their hearts that their petitions will be answered.

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# E-TRIKE: Today's answer for tomorrow's need

As science advances for the protection of the environment, latest developments and discoveries in the field of technology are contributing greatly not only to environment-friendly businesses but are also towards removing doubts among business people on how new products will improve their home and community life.

Recent studies, researches, trials and experimentations have resulted in convincing people living in big cities that new products – like new transport vehicles – are a big boon to daily living i.e. going to the work place and getting home for a good night rest.

Before, people thought that new power energy sources and vehicles not dependent on fossil fuel were not possible.

No one could imagine, for instance, that renewable energy and sunlight-sourced power can be used to generate electricity and also as fuel for the vehicles that we need now.

But as we are seeing today, using solar energy to move cars and other vehicles has been proven viable and can work for everyone.

The idea at this time is not to do away completely with other fuel sources for vehicles on the world's highways. Simply supplementing the use of traditional fuel to lessen its effect, which will somehow save both the environment and the economy, is being done now.

In Quezon City, Mayor Herbert Bautista has given the go-signal for the pilot test of e-tricycles introduced by the Ang Kasangga Party-list and the Netherlands-based Technostrat design and research corporation.

Bautista signed a memorandum of agreement with project partners for the implementation of the e-trike project in QC and personally tried one of the vehicles during a test drive at the city hall grounds to let the world know that his administration is joining the world's unified thrust of protecting the environment.

Every little bit done to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and traditional power sources will help not only our respective families but also all the coming generations. The city government is doing its part to save the environment and the future.

With the city government introducing environment-friendly measures to sustain a livable community, QC residents and future generations are now assured of a clean and healthy environment in the future.

As E-tricyles ply on QC's streets, noise and air pollution will reduce the transport and health worries of residents and the organizations involved in environmental protection advocacy.



Outreach clinics are conducted for areas not easily accessible. Vaccines being provided are BCG, DPT, OPV, AMV and Hepatitis B. A total of 79,066 (102%) and 19,936 (25%) children were given the primary immunization in 2010 and 2011 (1st quarter) respectively. They are considered fully immunized children. Though the FIC coverage was high, measles cases have increased. For 2010 Quezon City has registered 383 cases of measles and as early as February 2011, 44 cases were already

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# GADRCO staff visits Women's Crisis Center

The Quezon City Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office (GADRCO) staff and some GAD focal persons recently visited Barangay Payatas for a study tour of its Women's Crisis Center (P-WCC).



Established in 2004, the Payatas WCC offers emergency custody and temporary shelter to abused women and children. The Center does not respond only to needs of women but also considers the needs of the children and their father, as well, so that the family stays whole, according to Payatas Barangay Captain Rosario Dadulo. Unwed mothers in crisis situations are referred to the QC government's Social Services and Development Department. The Center documents clients through intake forms, maintain an annual data base that focuses on Violence Against Women (VAW) cases while referring cases requiring higher level of legal intervention to lawyers.

Correspondingly, a Women's Desk housed inside the P-WCC provides counselling to the families and schedules the hearing of cases at the barangay level. Women's Desk officers alternately report for duty (two at a time at the main office, one each at the barangay satellite offices (Payatas A and Payatas B). Cases or complaints that fall under VAWC, children in-conflict with the law (CICL), are some of the cases filed at the Women's Desk.

Other services include endorsement of some cases to the police; issuance of Barangay Protection Orders (BPO); advising children not to go with strangers (for missing children) especially female children with impaired hearing ); employing the family-based approach through Parents Effectiveness Seminar; school-based approach through Alternative Learning System (for 11 year-old children to finish elementary level; 15 years old and above to finish high school); and establishing a Super Health Center in partnership with the religious sector.

The brief exchange afforded the officers and staff of GADRCO the opportunity to get a glimpse of Payatas as a community -- a settlement for around 200,200 people in a sprawling 747 hectare land.

The second part of the Lakbay-Aral led the GAD Officers and staff to the WCC of the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC).

The group was oriented by no less than the WCC Director, Ms. Theresa Balayon, on WCC's hospital-based Framework for a Health Sector Response to Violence Against Women with the woman as the central focus of its various services and analysis.

It was learned that women were often burdened with both health and non-health concerns. A relationship characterized by inequality (with the man dominating the relationship) lowers the self-esteem of a woman. Verbal abuse gradually translates to physical abuse overtime which leads the woman to a point of crisis that may result in either suicide or homicide.

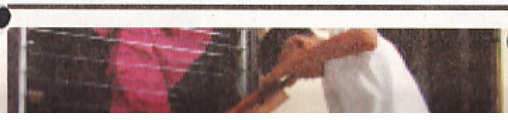
Formally established on February 19, 1989, the EAMC's WCC is the first and only crisis center in the Philippines which offers comprehensive crisis intervention services for survivors of gender-based violence through the application of gender-sensitive approaches. Being hospital-based since 1996 automatically sets the WCC's clients to be hospital-based VAW survivors. The Center also accepts victims of family violence referred by other hospitals, social institutions and NGOs. It facilitates activities that inform people why gender inequality exists and provides healing services.

To equalize the relationship, it was pointed out that the man should be made accountable and responsible in stopping violence against women and children, boy and girl children should be treated equally, and corresponding changes within the social institutions e.g. medical institutions, police, barangays, churches, etc. may be necessary in the prevention of violence.

However, insufficient funds forced the WCC to put its other services on hold. Its services at present are limited to a hotline , facilitation of legal assistance for VAW survivors through the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), provision of temporary shelter but without food and transportation assistance, information dissemination and education on how family violence may be prevented. ***(marilou b. cerilla)***



GADRCO and the NDC-GAD Staff during their Lakbay-Aral visit at Women's Crisis Center last May 5.



# QC to start 'Hiwa-hiwalay na Basura sa Barangay'

The city government also gave certificates of appreciation to IPM-ESI, Green Light Environmental Services, QC Environment Multi-

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GADRCO and the NDC-GAD Staff during their Lakbay-Aral visit at Women's Crisis Center last May 5.



# QC to start 'Hiwa-hiwalay na Basura sa Barangay'

In compliance with Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Ecology Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the Quezon City Government through the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD) will launch its "Hiwa-Hiwalay na Basura sa Barangay" program to strengthen the waste segregation drive of the city.

EPWMD head Frederika Rentoy said the "Hiwa-Hiwalay na Basura sa Barangay" project will promote awareness among QC residents of the importance of waste segregation and proper disposal of garbage to help them develop the habit of properly disposing their garbage.

According to Rentoy, the program will in some way ease the garbage collection task of the city through a systematic disposal process of trash at source.

Rentoy added that the "No Segregation No Collection" policy of the city government will be implemented in all 142 city barangays to make certain that waste segregation is applied on the household level.

EPWMD will conduct a barangay summit to formally inform the public of the "No Segregation No Collection" policy, and the latest technology related to solid waste management.

Installation of signages to notify residents of the garbage collection schedules for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes will also be undertaken.

EPWMD reported that every QC resident accumulates about 0.66 kilogram of garbage everyday. With a population of more than 2 million, the city generates more than 1.32 million kilos or 1,320 tons of waste materials daily.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista lauded the EPWMD for the program, noting that such effort will be helpful in educating the citizens on the proper handling and disposal of waste products.

Meanwhile, as the QC government prepares for an intensified campaign against climate change to mitigate the effects of global warming brought about by the Earth's rising temperature, the EPWMD has mobilized all the city's public schools in the city to raise students' awareness of environmental protection issues and concerns.

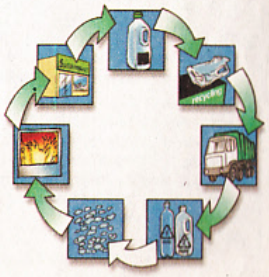
The EPWMD honored the participating schools and awarded three schools at the elementary and high school levels for having generated the most number of recyclables for school year 2010-2011 in the "Hakot Bulasi sa Eskwela Project."

Topping the list at the elementary school level are Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School with a 2,049.88 volume of recyclables redeemed amounting to P13,305.25; P. Bernardo Elementary School with 1,980.58 recyclables worth P13,963.91; and Payatas A Elementary School with a total of 1,559.40 recyclables worth P11,202.80

High school level awardees are Lagro High School with 6,174.26 recyclables worth P32,825.07; North Fairview High School with 2,188.70 recyclables amounting to P14,617.63; and Commonwealth High School with 1,471.85 recyclables worth P12,772.80.

The city government also gave certificates of appreciation to IPM-ESI, Green Light Environmental Services, QC Environment Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Linis Ganda), Rotary Club of Quezon City, and the partner junkshops of the winning schools for their unwavering support in the implementation of the project.

The "Hakot Bulasi sa Eskwela Project" was first introduced in 2008 to raise awareness among students of the importance of protecting the environment and to carry out the city governments effort of strengthening the school-governments based practice of waste segregation and recycling. **(rico de leus)**



**The Philippines joins the world in the observance of World Environment Day with fresh hopes of having environmental problems addressed with renewed vigor and a deeper sense of urgency.**

# World Environment Day: A Time of Reflection

**By Limon S. Valeros**

World Environment Day, an annual event observed every 5th day of the month of June, is a unique opportunity to drum up worldwide understanding of the environment and boost political attention and action.



Certainly, it is a rare occasion to boost public cognizance and enthusiasm on the gains of maintaining clean and sound environment, towards a safer and more prosperous future.

This year's celebration, which is an initiative that grew out of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, has for its theme "Forests: Nature at Your Service" and focuses on the intrinsic link between quality of life

Above and beyond the signing and ratification of international environmental conventions, we also expect on this day, Heads of State, Prime Ministers and Ministers of Environment, at one fell swoop to deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth.

If truth be told, this once a year celebration mirrors not only our never-ending concern for the environment and its resources, but rather the lifelong challenges being faced by the world's governments in raising awareness of pressing issues and problems besetting our environment.

Over and again, individuals as well as groups all over the globe should make use of the event to champion the call of reaching out beyond the community and linking with all-inclusive efforts by international agencies, governments, multi-lateral business firms, non-government organizations, and the community at large.

Save for the rituals and double standards, it is our fervent wish that this global celebration really inspire consciousness and sensitivity vis-à-vis the exigency of safeguarding the world's environment; mustering political will and bolstering the people's active involvement and commitment in expanding environment-related undertakings across the world.

It follows that on this World Environment Day, we ought to look at carefully the state of our environment. We should reflect on the actions which every one of us have to take, and then commit ourselves to our shared responsibility of watching over all life on earth in an attitude and mind-set of earnest resolve and self-possessed passion.

Let us go all-out and make every effort to safeguard and strengthen our environment, a fragile web that we share with the rest of the world.



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The most important international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2011 will be held in India, this year's global host, with colorful activities including school tree-planting drives to community clean-ups, car-free days, photo competitions on forests, bird-watching trips, city park clean-up initiatives, exhibits, green petitions, nationwide green campaigns and much more.

State, Prime Ministers and Ministers of Environment, at one fell swoop to deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth.









REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

## Recycling Facts & Trivia

**Compiled by Maria Luisa Vidal**

**How much solid waste is generated daily in the Philippines?**

An average Filipino generates 0.3 and 0.5 kg (rural and urban areas, respectively) of solid waste daily.1 Quezoni City has a per capita waste generation of 0.67 kg. of the country's 16 regions, the National Capital Region accounts for 23 percent of the total solid waste generated in the country annually.




**What is RA 9003?**

RA 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 is the law that governs the management of solid waste in a system that will pose the least environmental and health impacts.

**What is the composition of solid waste generated in the country?**

In Metro Manila, the National Solid waste Management Commission reports that food/kitchen wastes account for about 45 percent of the total solid waste (estimated at 6,700 metric tons daily) generated in the area. Paper waste accounts for 16 percent; plastic, 15 percent; glass and wood, 9 percent; others 15 percent.prevent rusting.

**What is ecological Solid Waste Manage**

**SWM is the systematic management of**

- Waste reduction at source;
- Segregation at source for recover compostable wastes;
- Segregated transportation, storag and disposal of solid wastes; and
- All other waste management activ




By Rico de Leus

Fighting climate change is one of the world leading environmental concerns nowadays. Measures to mitigate the effects of global warming have been laid down to stop possible occurrences that may arise due to the unpredictable weather conditions brought about by the escalating earth's temperature.

Means to lessen the effects of this poor weather phenomenon have been taken into consideration, to further spare the environment from future destruction and to somehow help develop necessary undertakings to once again rebuild what has been damaged.

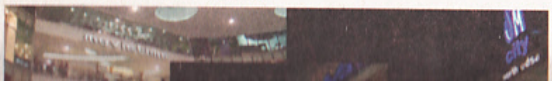
Joint global efforts to avoid replication of the unanticipated eventualities that turn Japan panoramic views into eye-soring tsunami debris--- blotting the country's century old landscapes, claiming thousands of lives, and merely kneeling down the land of the rising sun's economy was put in place.

Change in Earth's temperature that triggers the birth of the unusual weather condition that washes out preserved historical landmarks worldwide is a of major concern that has to be studied to be able to spare mankind from devastating perdition.

In 2007, Sydney Australia initiated Earth Hour as its statement of support for a united call for action on climate change and energy conservation, thus creating awareness among other countries to carry out the call for preserving mother earth for the next generation.

The Earth Hour, a one-hour global environmental campaign, undertaken to somehow lessen, if not totally stop, the alarming effects of global warming, has been joined by different key cities worldwide in a bid to widen awareness among human race on the importance of this energy saving measures, which is marked by simultaneous switching-off of power for at least one hour to save energy.

On March 26, after five years of existence, Earth Hour was successfully celebrated in thousands of key cities in 100 landmarks on all seven continents to save energy.



In the Philippines, a record-breaking 1,661 cities and municipalities have joined the world's one stand of protecting and saving Mother Earth.

This global initiative was joined by Quezon City where lights within the QC Hall compound and the Quezon Memorial Circle were turned off for an hour starting 8:30 p.m., on orders of Mayor Herbert Bautista.

To show the city government's support of the Earth Hour program, Bautista urged barangay officials and city residents to conduct simple activities to mark the one-hour environmental campaign.

Mayor Bautista also encouraged private establishment owners to switch off the signage lights of their facilities in support of the earth hour celebration.

The Quezon City Government has been crafting creative solutions to counter any eventualities that may be brought about by the effects of the environmental changes due to the increasing earth's temperature. Developing more pleasurable surroundings to somehow balance the increasing heat has been undertaken.

Having the biggest public park system in the country, Quezon City has successfully managed its greening efforts to ensure an enjoyable city to live, thus, helping save the environment.

The City has more than 550 parks providing, more or less, 226 hectares of free, safe and pleasurable recreation to the city residents.

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## GADRCO Info-bits:

# Gender and Climate Change

*Why climate change is a gender issue*

Women are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they are more prone to its adverse impacts. Women's limited adaptive capacities arise from prevailing social inequalities and ascribed social and economic roles that manifest itself in differences in property rights, access to information, lack of employment, and unequal access to resources. Further, in extreme events more women deaths are observed due to women's inability to swim or run. They also lack of strength to withstand physically demanding situations brought by typhoons, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and fire.

*Women bear a disproportionate burden of climate change consequences:*

Decreased food security – with changes in climate, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scare. This exposes women to loss of harvest, often their sole sources of food and income.

*Impact on livelihoods* – women are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. For instance, climate change causes rise in the sea level, affecting the fishing community (both men and women) not only in terms of fish-catch but also with regard to water scarcity, as seawater gets into fresh water. When the land is flooded, infrastructure (roads and houses) are damaged. Large scale migration from flooded areas is expected and much of the burden of migration falls on women migrants / OFWs.

*Water resources (shortage and access)* – climate change may aggravate existing shortages of water. Women are largely responsible for water collection in the communities and are therefore more affected when the quantity of water and/or its accessibility changes.

*Increased burden of care giving* – as primary caregivers, women may see their responsibilities increase family members suffer increased illness due to exposure to vector borne diseases such as malaria, water borne diseases such as cholera and, increase in heart stress mortality.

*What is the way forward?*

It is clear that gender differences must be taken into account to understand the impact of climate change. Different strategies for responses and capacity building are needed, due to differences in gender specific roles and responsibilities created by society.

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The City has more than 550 parks providing, more or less, 226 hectares of free, safe and pleasurable recreation to the city residents.

Measures to somehow mitigate the effect of global warming have been passed by the city council to keep the city away from possible destruction.

The Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QDRRMC) has been created to make sure that the necessary plan of action to counter disaster is carried out. Formulating guidelines, promoting awareness among the populace and conducting disaster preparedness plans will surely lessen the effect of possible destruction of Planet Earth.

**/M)?**
**ste which provides for:**

ble, recyclable and

processing treatment

do not harm the environment.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

- It takes about 20 times more energy to make aluminum can from new materials than from recycled materials?
- Making paper and glass out of recycled materials uses about 25 percent less energy than making them from new materials?
- Producing aluminum can from recycled materials creates 95 percent less air pollution than from making it from raw materials?
- We keep 7,000 gallons of water from being treated with chemicals for every ton of paper we recycle?
- To produce 1 ton of paper, we need to cut down 17 trees.

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It is clear that gender differences must be taken into account to understand the impact of climate change. Different strategies for responses and capacity building are needed, due to differences in gender specific roles and responsibilities created by society.

*The following actions are required to facilitate deeper understanding on how women are affected by climate change:*

*Recognize that women are more vulnerable in climate change driven scenarios :* Government should analyze and identify gender-specific impacts and protection measures related to floods, earthquakes, fire, diseases, and other environmental changes and disasters.

*Understand and address gender-specific natural resource pattern:* Government should develop strategies to enhance women's access to and control over natural resources, in order to reduce poverty, protect environmental resources, and ensure that women and poor communities can better cope with climate change.

*Identify women's particular skills and capacities that will lead themselves to improvement and adaptation :* Given that women's knowledge and participation has been critical to the survival of entire communities in disaster situations, government should recognize women's specialized skills in different aspects of their livelihood and natural resource management strategies and utilize those that lead themselves to improvement and adaptation.

*Increase women's participation in decision-making at all levels in climate change alleviation and adaptation :* Women's participation in climate change related debates and planning must be enhanced by tools and procedures that augment their capacity and sensitize decision-makers to the advantages of equal participation.

*Based on a draft paper "Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Change Policies" prepared by Dr. Jyoti Parkih, Director, IRADe*

# Quezon City to retrofit buildings

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista has ordered the retrofitting of buildings in the city to ensure that they can withstand strong ground shaking after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) warned of a possible earthquake that may happen following the non-movement of the West Valley Fault System (WVFS) during the last 200 years.

As Quezon City prepares for a possible strong magnitude earthquake because of the WVFS, Mayor Bautista called for a re-assessment of the structural design of all the buildings and other structures in the city to make necessary refurbishing and upgrading if needed.

As part of the city government's disaster preparedness program, the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) conducts a regular planning, evaluation and preparedness seminar/workshop among its members and its technical working group members to regularly orient them on the preparations necessary to meet the zero casualty thrust of the city government.

Recently, QCDRRMC invited Peter Yanev, a structural engineer and a World Bank consultant on disaster risk reduction management, to a discussion on the significance of an extensive assessment of the structural features of all the establishments, especially high-rise buildings which



# QC Mayor calls for all-embracing disaster management approach

In a bid to ensure a "safer life" for Quezon City residents, Mayor Herbert M. Bautista called for an all-embracing and sweeping approach on disaster management to reduce possible devastating effects of earthquakes.

Bautista enjoined particularly the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) under the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) to take the lead in the campaign even as it seeks to step up the city government's action plan in effectively handling emergency situations.

Likewise, he cited the need for highly-trained and amply-equipped emergency and rescue teams for the city government, to render assistance to victims during calamities.

Bautista also underscored the need to systematically look over areas where earthquakes would most likely take place and promptly carry out needed steps to lessen their overwhelming impact on lives and properties.

The looming earthquakes still remain unpredictable anywhere in the world, including Metro Manila. As



## TAMANG KAALAMAN AY KAHANDAAN

QC Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (QCDRRMC)

**LINDOL**



1) Magplano at tandaan ang mga lugar na ligtas at mahina.
2) Patibayin kung mahina o depekto ang istraktura.
3) Iligtas ang sarili sa ilalim ng mesa, kama o hamba.
4) Iwasan ang mga poste o linya ng kuryente.
5) Iwasan ang mataas na gusali, mag-ingat sa mga bumabagsak.
6) Iwasan ang mga burol o matataas na lugar.
7) Huwag tatawid ng tulay.
8) Itali ang mga gamit na madaling matumba.
9) Patibayin ang mga gamit na nakabitin.
10) Bumaba ng mahinahon sa hagdan, huwag sa elevator.
11) Makinig sa mga tamang impormasyon.
12) Isara ang linya ng kuryente at gas.
13) Mag-iwan ng mensahe kung saan ka patungo.
14) Kung hindi importante, huwag gumamit ng telepono.

**SUNOG**



1) Mag-organisa at sumali sa fire brigade.
2) Makilahok sa mga drill ng rescue.
3) Tandaan ang numero ng bumbero.
4) Sabihan agad ang nasa loob para lumikas.
5) Patayin ang apoy habang maliit pa.
6) Huwag mataranta, maging mahinahon.
7) Gumapang palabas para makaiwas sa usok.
8) Sumama sa drill ng first aid.
9) Unahin ang mga bata, matanda at may kapansanan.
10) Isara ang pinto, para hindi mapasok ng usok.
11) Lagyan ng basahan/kumot ang pinto.
12) Gumulong sa lupa kapag naapuyan ang damit.
13) Huwag balikan ang mga gamit.

**BAGYO/BAHA**



1) Maging aktibo at makilahok sa mga pag-uusap para sa kahandaan.
2) Matutong magbasa ng mga panukat baha (Flood Marker).
3) Huwag daanan ang mga kalyeng mataas ang baha.
4) Huwag lulusong sa tubig baha, para iwas sakit at disgrasya.
5) Iwasang bumiyahe pag may baha.
6) Iwasan ang mga daan patungo sa ilog.
7) Laging makinig sa mga babala bago bumiyahe.
8) Manatili sa loob ng bahay kung ito ay matibay.
9) Laging alamin ang mga daan patungo sa ligtas na lugar (Evacuation Area)

**MGA DAPAT TANDAAN SA PANAHON NG KALAMIDAD**

1) Maghanda lagi ng First Aid Kit.
2) Mag-imbak ng sapat na pagkain at inumin.

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Recently, QCDRRMC invited Peter Yanev, a structural engineer and a World Bank consultant on disaster risk reduction management, to a discussion on the significance of an extensive assessment of the structural features of all the establishments, especially high-rise buildings which are less resistant to damages from high-intensity earthquakes.

Yanev said the country is facing the challenge of retrofitting structures to see if they can withstand tremors of high intensity.

Yanev also cautioned QCDRRMC members that detailed risk audit and assessment of all structures are imperative to calculate preventive measures applicable to attain a less damage - no life lost destruction.

Bautista said "Metro Manila is likely to have 'a big one' anytime soon and fixing the buildings and other structures is the most probable preparation we can make here in Quezon City."

QCDRRMC action officer and Department of Public Order and Safety chief Elmo DG. San Diego said the city is rating each building depending on its distance from the fault and retrofitting it according to its location can help mitigate the extensive harm a possible tremor can create.
**(rico de leus)**

In a bid to ensure a "safer life" for Quezon City residents, Mayor Herbert M. Bautista called for an all-embracing and sweeping approach on disaster management to reduce possible devastating effects of earthquakes.

Bautista enjoined particularly the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) under the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) to take the lead in the campaign even as it seeks to step up the city government's action plan in effectively handling emergency situations.



QCDRRMC is a coordinating body designed to harmonize operations and utilization of agencies during declared calamities. It maintains public safety and teams up with the MMDRRMC, NDRRMC and other agencies in conducting disaster prediction, prevention, preparations, and coming up with disaster plans to save lives, protect properties and reduce damage caused by natural calamities.

At the same time, Bautista urged the strengthening of a commitment between all concerned in the exercise of efficient and well-organized disaster management for the city's general welfare.

Likewise, he cited the need for highly-trained and amply-equipped emergency and rescue teams for the city government, to render assistance to victims during calamities.

Bautista also underscored the need to systematically look over areas where earthquakes would most likely take place and promptly carry out needed steps to lessen their overwhelming impact on lives and properties.

The looming earthquakes still remain unpredictable anywhere in the world, including Metro Manila. As the largest city in the metropolis with a population of roughly 2.9 million and over 300,000 building structures, Quezon City, as per studies, continues to be at risk on account of its being situated near what is called the "Marikina Fault Line."

Another study done by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) disclosed that the metropolis, being sited in the West Valley Fault System, may perhaps be severely affected if and when a magnitude 7.2 tremor occurs.
**(chie rendon-valeros)**



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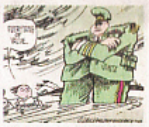

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1) Maghanda lagi ng First Aid Kit.
2) Mag-imbak ng sapat na pagkain at inumin.
3) Maghanda ng kandila, posporo, baterya at flashlight.

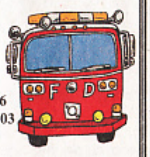
**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**



Patrol 117
QC Central Police District – 927-4444/920-1378
Fax No. 928-3632/426-5628/436-5632

QCPD Stations

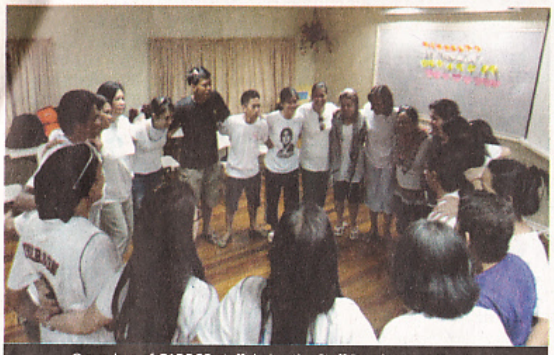
1) STN 1 – La Loma – 712-5757
2) STN 2 – Masambong – 372-1725
3) STN 3 – Talipapa – 937-1703
4) STN 4 – Novaliches – 936-3624
5) STN 5 – Lagro – 935-4941
6) STN 6 – B. Hills – 931-6470
7) STN 7 – Cubao – 723-0290
8) STN 8 – Project 4 – 913-9893
9) STN 9 – Anonas – 434-3687
10) STN 10 – Kamuning – 924-1025
11) STN 11 – Galas – 712-3280
12) STN 12 – Libis – 439-4416



QC Fire Department – 928-8363
**QCDRRMC 24 HOURS OPERATION CENTER**
**Radio Comm. Service (Hunter) – 922-3230/922-3227/922-8656**
**DPOS Operation Center (Spider) – 921-0057 Telefax – 921-103**
**DPOS Rescue – 928-4396/927-5914/924-2027**

**QCDRRMC**
Chairman – Hon. Mayor Herbert M. Bautista
Vice-Chairman – Vice-Mayor Joy Belmonte
Action Officer – Head, Dept. of Public Order and Safety (DPOS)
Secretariat – Dept. of Public Order and Safety (DPOS)

# The team-building experience for GADRCO



Group hug of GADRCO staff during the Staff Development Seminar last April 28 to 30

The Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office (GADRCO) along with a GADRCO unit at the Novaliches District Center (NDC), recently went on a trip to Loreland Farm Resort in San Roque, Antipolo City for a training in participatory development communication perspectives cum team building.

The three-day get-together aimed to discuss the importance of participatory development in the context of gender-responsive governance; identify and explain the framework and tools on basic participatory development communication including inherent concepts and principles; refine existing communication tools based on the identified needs of the QC-GADRCO,; develop a sense of camaraderie, solidarity and shared leadership among employees and volunteers; demonstrate skills in effective communication in relation to office management.

Creative, participatory and practical methodologies used were based on principles of experiential learning, that included lecture-discussions, workshop games, hands on exercises, plenary presentations, and role playing.

The first part of the training covered perspective-setting, basic concepts and principles of effective communication and activity workshops to foster a sense of teamwork and collaboration among the participants.

The second part provided practical opportunity for the application of the course through individual and group work exercises. Discussions on office management focused on the importance of effective communication dealing with group dynamics.

The participants learned that aside from physical, perceptual, emotional, cultural, and language barriers, gender differences in speech patterns also affect communication.

During the processing of workshop activities, it was emphasized that respect, confidentiality and support must be considered in dealing with different groups.

As the training wound up, the staff and volunteers had these tips:

Tips on Effective Communication

**Clear.** Be clear about your goal or message. What is your purpose in communicating with this person.

**Concise.** Stick to the point and keep it brief.

**Concrete.** Solid message-providing your audience a clear picture of what you're telling them.

**Correct.** Solid-message-free communication fits your audience. Do the technical terms you use fit your audience's level of education or knowledge? Have you checked your writing for grammatical errors?

**Coherent.** Error-free communication must fit your audience. Do the technical terms you use fit your audience's level of education or knowledge? Have you checked your writing for grammatical errors.

**Complete.** All in 1 - the audience has everything they need to be informed and,if applicable, take action. Have you included all relevant information - contact names, dates, time, locations?

**Courteous.** Friendly, open, and hones-no hidden agenda, insults or passive aggressive tones. **(marilou cerilla)**

# 11 landmarks for a more gender-responsive governance

## under the first 12 months of Mayor Herbert Bautista's administration

*1. Sustaining a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for GAD Plans and Budget through the Annual Thank GAD It's Friday (TGIF) Workshops*

The annual consultation and review sessions are conducted to monitor status of the QC GAD Code and the City GAD Plan and budget. Beginning

organizing and mentoring.

*3. Expanding Free Legal Assistance Services for Disadvantaged Women and Families*

A Memorandum of Agreement between the QC Government and the Federacion International de Abogadas (FIDA, through the GADRCO

Towards this end, GADRCO also organized Townhall 2 – a forum of GAD Focals and public information officers in agencies located in QC under the theme : Expanding a City-Wide GAD Network and Gender–responsive IEC Resource Base attended by 94 participants.

Beginning this year, the Mayor has approved the expansion of GADRCO's Speakers Bureau for a "ladderized" learning composed of five (5) modules in gender training to respond to a growing clientele requesting for orientation and skills training in gender planning, budgeting and legal legal education. GADRCO also plans to begin an IT-based open GAD Academy for QC GAD focal persons and trainers with the assistance of KORPHIL after approval by the Mayor.

*7. Maintenance of a Gender Statistical Profile/Databank*

Every year, GADRCO collates and

GADRCO continues to provide venues to share with communities and other LGUs, NGOs, national departments, local and international delegations visiting QC milestones in gender-responsive governance including the Mayor's thrusts and best practices in barangay level application of laws and other mandates. Recent destinations: Brgy. Payatas, Women's Crisis Center, Korea-Philippines Information Technology Center, UP Los Baños Laguna Anti-Sexual Harassment Office and San Pablo City government. On the other hand, GADRCO was visited by the GAD TWG of Lipa Water Office and Masbate LGU Officials.

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# 11 landmarks for a more gender-responsive governance

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The annual consultation and review sessions are conducted to monitor status of the QC GAD Code and the City GAD Plan and budget. Beginning 2011, TGIF is conducted through nine (9) executive and legislative clusters. Last July 1, the Protective and Health/ Allied Services Clusters reviewed the Magna Carta and the City's 12 Point GAD Agenda and identified three (3) top programs for 2012 to be given to the Mayor for consideration in the 2010 GAD Plan and budget.

As part of monitoring, the 2011 GAD Mainstreaming Assessment Kit was also distributed to all city offices under the executive order of the Mayor, to elicit in-depth review on problems related to gender mainstreaming efforts in department and offices.

*2. Strengthening the City GAD Focal System*

A total of 214 newly-appointed Barangay GAD Focal persons and guests were invited to attend the GAD Focal Orientation to review their functions under the Magna Carta of Women and QC GAD Code as well as orient them on the QC GAD plan and budget processes. The city so far has 96 focals in departments/offices and 171 in barangays included in its present directory, a challenge in organizing and mentoring.

*3. Expanding Free Legal Assistance Services for Disadvantaged Women and Families*

A Memorandum of Agreement between the QC Government and the Federacion International de Abogadas (FIDA, through the GADRCO started the provision of free-legal assistance to QC clients of GADRCO on 2008 March.

In 2011, legal services were expanded to include psycho-social services by volunteer psychologists, and another venue in the Novaliches District Center was inaugurated last March 28. This is the third venue, with the GADRCO and Office of the Vice Mayor as other venues at City Hall. GADRCO also began organizing trained in-house paralegals who also attend to clients.

*4. Celebrating Women's Month*

This year's Women's Month in QC was celebrated with the active participation not only of city departments, barangays and non-government organizations (NGOs) but also of GAD focals of national government offices and hospitals located in the city.

For the first time GD focals within the city government and National Government Agencies (NGAs) met with a common vision to strengthen linkages and share experiences in gender mainstreaming efforts.

Towards this end, GADRCO also organized Townhall 2 – a forum of GAD Focals and public information officers in agencies located in QC under the theme : Expanding a City-Wide GAD Network and Gender–responsive IEC Resource Base attended by 94 participants.

Artists, musicians and dancers as well as the business sector also participated in the celebrations through exhibits and seminars.

*5. Advocacy through IEC Production and Info-Dissemination*

Some of these are one (1) –pager Information bits we call "Banigs," series of 2011, which are brief and concise information/facts about gender and development that will arouse familiarity not only among GAD Focal Persons but to the majority who are still unacquainted with principles and practices of women empowerment and gender equality. GADRCO also produced training materials/tools, in print and video as well as documentation reports of events related to spreading gender equality in the city. The gender tabloid We Connect, which began publication in 2002, was expanded by Mayor Bautista from two to four issues per year and from eight to 12 pages starting 2011.

*6. Branding the city as a Resource Provider in Capacity – Building on Gender Equality and Mainstreaming*

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*7. Maintenance of a Gender Statistical Profile/Databank*

Every year, GADRCO collates and updates major sex-disaggregated statistics in QC and national standards from raw data and reports from departments/offices and NGOs in QC. Summaries are disseminated to relevant departments/task forces, among them, gender and climate change, gender and poverty indicators, and the initial production of a profile of QC women and men.

*8. Inclusion of Gender Concerns in Task Forces/Council*

Recognizing the cross-cutting concerns of gender in governance, GADRCO was appointed as a member of three bodies-the Anti-Poverty Task Force, the Disaster Management Council and the Historical Banlat Area Committee. Through this membership, the office is able to integrate gender concerns, indicators and services in the goals and operations of these bodies and share references on respective concerns. GADRCO is also beginning to gather facts on QC "sheroes" to be included in the city's landmark and branding schemes.

*9. Info-Caravan and Lakbay – Aral activities*

GADRCO continues to provide venues to share with communities and other LGUs, NGOs, national departments, local and international delegations visiting QC milestones in gender-responsive governance including the Mayor's thrusts and best practices in barangay level application of laws and other mandates. Recent destinations: Brgy. Payatas, Women's Crisis Center, Korea-Philippines Information Technology Center, UP Los Baños Laguna Anti-Sexual Harassment Office and San Pablo City government. On the other hand, GADRCO was visited by the GAD TWG of Lipa Water Office and Masbate LGU Officials.

*10. Involvement in Policy Analysis*

GADRCO monitors ordinances and resolutions related to gender equality and empowerment in various areas. It provides information and opinions requested by councilors on some draft ordinances such as billboards control, legal education for women and children's rights and shelter. It also attends hearing as invited.

*11. Continuous Staff Development*

Enrichment activities and short but regular team leader meetings aimed at improving systems, upgrade knowledge skills, attitude and working relationships and leadership/supervisory skills building have been conducted. Latest was the Supervisory Skills Training for GADRCO Team leaders in collaboration with various offices; PESO, SBECO and SYDP, which shows successful spooling of resources just to provide basic skills in handling subordinates-a training they could not access because they are not regular employees.

## Councilor Gian Carlo Sotto:

# In service of nature

Councilor Gian Carlo Sotto comes from a family that is known in showbiz and politics. His great grandfather, Vicente Sotto was a former senator, while his father, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, was once a vice-mayor of Quezon City and a veteran actor as well.



The councilor finished entrepreneurial management at University of Asia and Pacific. He is the only son and third child of Sen. Tito Sotto and former beauty queen and actress Helen Gamboa.

He was once a part of ABS-CBN's Star Magic from 2007-2009. At present, he is a councilor of the 3rd District of Quezon City and works on priority programs such as scholarship, medical and feeding, and drug prevention. He is also the chairperson for the Committee of Environment, Parks and Ecology, and has passed resolutions which aim to uplift the wellness of Quezon City constituents.

One of his resolutions was for Department of Education (DepEd) to let schools include in their curriculum the subject environment studies which intends to stimulate awareness of climate change and global warming among students. He has also resolutions on waste vegetable oil and sewage treatment in markets.

He encouraged the public to avoid using waste vegetable oil that is being sold in markets and instead use it an alternative diesel fuel for government prompted the use of vehicles that reduce air pollution and mitigate climate change.

What's more, he's promoting the provision of sewage facilities in all private and public markets in order to prevent wastes from reaching streams and rivers. Said resolutions endeavor to help in maintaining Quezon City as a clean community and also to protect people from diseases.

In addition, he authored a resolution asking barangay officials to strictly implement laws aimed at reducing Quezon City's environmental problems. **(cariza anne laguardia)**



# PKKK women working as one

**By Racquel L. Ricafort**

Rural women comprise a significant resource in the Philippines. They play a vital role in providing food for their families and sustaining the economy of the country. However, with the emergence of market-oriented policies and foreign industries like corporate farming, logging, mining and energy projects, the rural women began to experience various obstacles in fulfilling their roles in the productive and reproductive spheres. They unexpectedly lose their access and control over productive resources and basic services.

Rural women have faced, and continue to face, problems such as malnutrition, poverty, hunger, unemployment and displacement. These have forced many of them to work overseas in order to improve their income. Unfortunately, some experience gender-based violence such as exploitation, abuse and discrimination. With all these problems, there is a need for rural women to organize themselves and form a group that will serve as a channel/venue to air their struggles and advance their rights and needs.

The Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) has grown from the simple alliance of various organizations into a nationwide coalition. It sprang from the 1st National Rural Congress attended by 280 participants from 50 provinces nationwide in October 14-15, 2003 at the Technical, Educational and Skills Development Agency (TESDA) in Taguig, Manila. Various people's organization and non-government organizations convened the 1st rural women congress with Centro Saka Inc. as the lead convenor. The event gave birth to 8 Rural Women' Agenda which became the basis of the PKKK' advocacy today.

As a grassroots coalition, PKKK maintains a wide network of organizations and federations that promote rural development, agrarian reform, social enterprise, gender based policies and programs and gender equality. PKKK's general assembly is attended by 150 leaders from various organizations and coalitions. Today, the PKKK has expanded its membership into 30 provinces with active core groups. These, in addition to 20 provinces the PKKK had already reached in recent years.

Since 2003, the coalition has been recognized as a significant driving force and agent in advancing the rights and needs of rural women by providing socio-economic assistance, investing in the development of their capabilities through education and training, creating programs and activities that are responsive to the concerns of rural women, building more partnership/linkages with various groups, organization and government agencies, and advocating comprehensive and gender- responsive laws and policies that will benefit rural women and their families

Furthermore, PKKK has a strong commitment and dedication in innovating and making its mission and strategies relevant and responsive in today's situation. The coalition strives to empower rural women and initiate their participation/involvement in the making of legislation, policies and programs from the barangay level up to the national level. This way, rural women can enjoy the fulfillment of their rights and needs and achieve a better quality of life not only for theirselves but also for their families.

# EPWMD's response to environmental concerns



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such as scholarship, medical and feeding, and drug prevention. He is also the chairperson for the Committee of Environment, Parks and Ecology, and has passed resolutions which aim to uplift the wellness of Quezon City constituents.

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# EPWMD's response to environmental concerns

The Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD) has been consistently exerting efforts to execute its mandate as the primary agency responsible for the provision of efficient garbage collection services and the promotion of sanitation and control of environmental pollution in the city.

As a support unit of the Quezon City Government, it carries out a sustainable and long-term environmental management program which includes, among others, solid waste management and pollution control in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code (R.A. 7160), the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (R.A. 9003), the Clean Air Act (R.A. 8749), the Clean Water Act (R.A. 9275), the Code of Sanitation of the Philippines (P.D. 856), City Ordinances, and Resolutions adopted by the City Council.

The department strives to intensify the delivery of basic public services that promote good sanitation through proper waste management and preservation of the environment.

The city is implementing waste segregation as an integral part of its solid waste management program. The Department's project called "Hiwa-hiwalay na Basura Solusyon sa Problema or HB Solusyon sa Problema Project" is a prevailing program that seeks to divert household solid wastes by encouraging the practice of segregation at source, recycling, composting and kitchen waste collection. Incentives are given to barangays which practice solid waste management. At present, there are seven barangays which best exemplify waste segregation at source, as follows: Barangay Bagumbuhay, Horseshoe, Greater Fairview, Greater Lagro, Balonbato, Sta. Lucia and Philam. It is anticipated that all the 142 barangays of the city will eventually participate in this campaign.

Another innovative program of the Department is the Dengue Prevention and Control Program which started in 2008 in collaboration with the QC Health Department and the Philippine National Red Cross – QC Chapter. This program has become a yearly activity being conducted on the top 17 barangays that had the highest numbers of dengue cases as identified by the Quezon City Health Department. These barangays have the highest number of urban poor families affected by poor sanitation and overcrowding as surveyed by the Urban Poor Affairs Office. These barangays include Gulod, Sauyo, Bahay Toro, Culiat, Kaligayahan, Fairview, Payatas, Commonwealth, Pasong Tamo, Holy Spirit, Baesa, Tatalon, Sta. Monica, Bagong Silangan, Bagong Pag-asa, Old Balara and Apolonio Samson.



Other clean-up projects being undertaken include Riverways Cleaning Operations and the customary cleaning activities of street sweepers not only in major thoroughfares of the city but also in the less known streets and alleys.

The City Government recognizes the importance of youth participation in its campaign against environmental degradation. Thus, the department's projects "Basura Monster" and "Hakot Bulasi sa Eskwela" call on the active participation of students in addressing environmental issues.

Another area of concern of this department is the implementation of City Ordinance No. SP-1906, S-2008, otherwise known as the Anti-Smoke Belching Ordinance, which seeks to apprehend and penalize owners and drivers of motor vehicles that generate smoke belching.

To intensify its campaign on anti-smoke belching, the department will launch the Quezon City Clean Air Compliance Assistance Program (QC-CACAP) which seeks to provide major transport groups based in the city the technical knowhow to comply with the Clean Air Act and other pertinent environmental laws as well as the DENR emission standards. This program calls on the participation of EMB-DENR, DOE, TESDA, PCIERD-DOST, ETV-ITDI, UP-NCTS and other government and non-government units to address the clamor of transport sectors in Quezon City for technical education on vehicle emission reduction. This program is a milestone in the campaign against air pollution and Quezon City will be the pioneer in this.

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# En route to a sustainable society

*In the light of man's avaricious quest for self-seeking gain and success, the days gone by have been, by rule of thumb, depicted by endless and untold misuse of natural resources. Even now, man's money-making growth ventures have also brought about widespread decadence of the environment – giving rise to grim and ominous backlash on the people's welfare.*

Despite man's drawn-out struggle for progress, just a few countries came out opulent and economically well off, with more nations emerging either cringing in privation and poverty. By chance, they were the present dirt poor and disadvantaged countries which provided, and keep on providing, the raw material needs of the highly industrialized nations.

The economic boom experienced by the industrialized western countries has radically conditioned the production of economic goods to the contentment of the world's people. Let alone, it also induced the start of an appalling environmental imbalance that imperils the wellbeing of the people worldwide, besides leaving hosts of countries economically broke.

Casted out to fend for themselves, the poverty stricken and economically handicapped countries have to determine means of uprooting themselves from the bonds of never-ending financial regression as well as environmental retrogression by putting in service all economic and ecological factors at hand including their human resources.

Yet, these efforts have been meager, if not trivial, sans the active participation of the people in planning and implementation of development options that is on an even keel with environmental care.

In developing countries like the Philippines, efforts to safeguard the environment must contravene with poverty and intense competition for access to natural wealth such as soils, forests and water. Under severe strain from sickening and burgeoning populations and commercial misuse, these riches are debased and used up at a very revolting rate.

By and large, the quality of the country's environment is not in ideal condition. Look at it from different perspectives and the alarming indications are all there insomuch as the environment is beset with various forces of decay. Still and all, the situation is not yet hopeless, but a lot of refurbishments and repairs have to be done.

Much as we fully realize the magnitude of the problems confronting the people as end result of environmental decay, the government by itself, inauspiciously is in no position to reverse the tide this time, in one sweeping motion, and to ward-off the adverse effects that Mother Nature threatens to unleash on account of overbearing drawbacks in financial, manpower, as well as material resources.

These environmental issues are extant, their enormities are openly shocking, and each and every mitigating step imaginable have been laid out and upheld to overpower their repulsive impact on our people.

A lot of environmental issues facing the country are of global concerns; others are rather peculiar and toned up by the country's social and economic setting. Far and wide, these issues form a formidable task for sustainable development.

The most sensible approach of shaping the country's national progress is through sustainable development – that is, meeting the needs of the citizens of today without limiting the options of future generations to fulfill theirs.

Sustainable development underscores the exigency to look at environmental safekeeping and economic growth as mutually compatible and congruous. This implies that growth objectives should be in accord not only with the needs of society but also with the deep-seated dynamics and carrying capacities of ecosystems as well.

The present-day yields the opportunity for greater initiatives and innovations for new environmental management approaches. Certainly, it is everyone's duty to be vigilant in overseeing and safeguarding our only home. Over and above, we also have the obligation of passing on to future generations a natural world as diverse and productive as we have inherited it.

Environmental and natural resources conservancy and safekeeping necessitate a good degree of vigilance, information and education campaigns and volunteerism. Accordingly, we would like to seek everyone's partnership, so that together, we can carry out schemes and undertakings for the greater welfare of our people as well as the environment. Let us begin that partnership now!

At the moment, we witness the floods, the haze and smoke, and the trash around us. But in due time, God willing and with our common and strong determination and efforts, we shall yet see the blue skies and the glistening sun of a new day…




*Human has relentlessly tried to make the most of the natural resources around him -- water, soil, forests, wildlife, and minerals. Prehistoric man made use of raw materials just as he found them. He ensnared animals and gathered plants with his hands. He occupied caves, overhanging rock, thick bushes, and tall trees for shelter and protection. From stones and minerals, man became skilled at crafting tools and implements with which he may perhaps get hold of other material goods from nature. Man's gadgets became more and more complex – weaponry, snares, fishing nets, flames, axes, needles.*

Ages ago, man began to alter nature as he used natural resources. He

## GAD DICTIONARY

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (GAD)** – conscious efforts at improving the quality of lives of women and men of all sexual

countries which provided, and keep on providing, the raw material needs of the highly industrialized nations.

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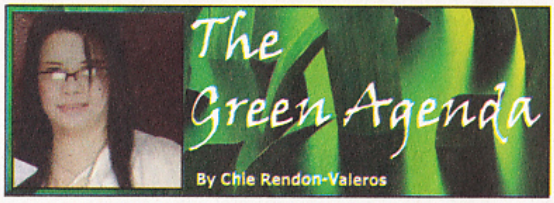


# Natural resources give strength to a nation

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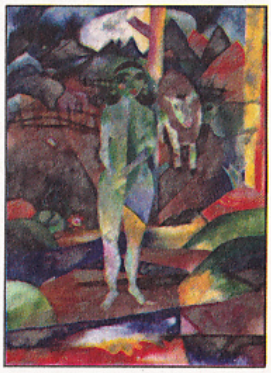
Ages ago, man began to alter nature as he used natural resources. He tamed animals and gained knowledge of how to sow and grow crops. Soon after, he learned to manage his own food resources. Before long, he built canals and irrigation streams to keep in check the flow of water. He dug mines to bring valuable copper, tin, lead, and other metals to the surface. He assembled boats and put out to sea to catch outsized fish and acquire other resources. He sailed to far-away lands where he stumbled upon new natural resources.



Almost immediately, man cut down forests, planted crops on vast areas of land, and set up communities. The Industrial Revolution maximized the quantity and volume of resources man may possibly use. New machines needed fuel – first coal and oil, then electricity, and now atomic energy. Modern-day industrial equipment and the much-bloated population deplete natural resources at a very fast rate. At this point, people are beginning to understand that they have to manage their use of natural wealth.

Natural resources give strength to a nation. A few countries, particularly the highly developed ones, have immeasurable amounts of raw materials, which they have used considerably. All the same, quite a lot of countries – the so-called "underdeveloped nations" – but with countless natural resources have not had the tools to make use of them.

An underdeveloped nation is supposed to locate the resources it has and after that construct or obtain the technology and industrial units with which to derive some benefit from these resources. And, up till now, those nations that possess only a few natural resources must build on the ones they have and then trade with other countries.

Ever since the Second World War, man has been taking advantage of natural resources at such a rapid rate that has caused some serious problems in his environment. Harmful chemicals, smoke, and other waste products generated by manufacturing are unconscionably discharged into lakes and rivers, blown into the air, or buried in the soil. The trash from households, workplaces, and storehouses has made many rivers and streams as polluted as open sewers.

Pesticides are used to get rid of creepy-crawly bugs and other vermins damaging to food crops, contaminating food, and destroying wildlife. Bulldozers and oversized electric saws flatten grasslands and forests to make way for additional access roads, homes, and shopping malls. Massive concrete and blacktop highways change the landscape, upsetting plant and animal life. Copious numbers of motor vehicles on thoroughfares pollute the air with harmful fumes and smoke. In a number of cities, smog – air that is heavily polluted with smoke and fog – has developed into a grave health problem.

It's a good thing that people are finally becoming aware and mindful that natural resources are at risk and in a vulnerable position, which means that man's health and life are also at risk and in the balance.

And so, the world's governments must pass laws to control waste disposal, industrial smoke, automobile exhausts, and other causes of air and water pollution. Each person must do whatever can to help save natural resources and make the world a healthy place in which to live.

## GAD DICTIONARY

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (GAD)** – conscious efforts at improving the quality of lives of women and men of all sexual orientations and identities based on sustained, equitable growth and balanced ecology. It sees society as a gender system in all its aspects – economic, political and social. It views oppression in both private and public spheres recognizing women as agents of change through the reorientation of the male-centered culture.

**GAD MAINSTREAMING** – the process of integrating the GAD framework in the local policy formulation, program and project development and implementation for the City's constituents. It also focuses on developing institutional mechanisms and strategies to address specific gender issues or concerns.

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET** – refers to the allocation of funds for the implementation of gender and development programs and projects. As stated in the law it shall be at least five percent of the agency's total budget appropriation to manifest concrete support to deepen and further the integration of gender in all aspects of development.

# THE JOY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

## A Year of fulfilling its vision and promise

*"Matulungan ang bawat pamilya ng Lungsod Quezon na matugunan ang kakulangan sa pagkain, mabawasan ang laganap na malnutrisyon, magbigay ng alternatibong pangkabuhayan at tugon sa suliranin ng lumalalang polusyon".*

*A statement from Hon. Vice Mayor Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte*



# The JOY OF URBAN FARMING

The Project "The Joy of Urban Farming" adopts simple and practical technologies for backyard gardening. It grows and produces vegetables, root crops, ornamental and medicinal plants, and that in urban areas, dwellers seem "detached" from planting/farming activities to produce food for consumption and profit on commercial scale.

Urban farming is done in places where there is hardly any space in which to plant vegetables and other crops.

Urban farming is generally practiced for income-earning or food-producing activities, though in some communities the main impetus is recreation and relaxation. The project aims to develop food sufficiency and promote nutrition awareness for schools and barangays within Quezon City.

It is generally accepted that urban farming helps people raise their own vegetables for their daily consumption. The target is to make this a regular activity or undertaking.

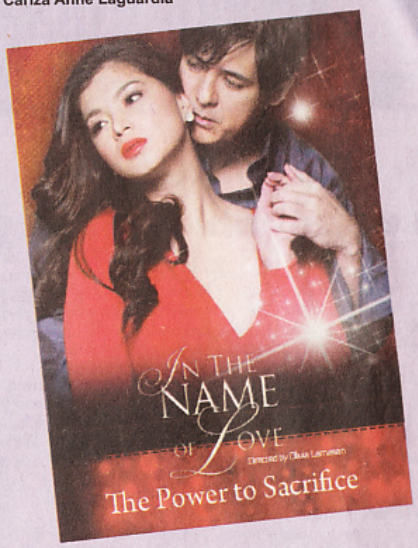
This will be a positive response to tackling food concerns. Households and small communities must utilize and turn idle land into farms, and contribute not only to their household food needs but also the needs of their community.

The Urban Farming effort in Quezon City has been undertaken in a 700-square meter Demo Farm Extension at the Quezon Memorial Circle, and in an even larger one in Novaliches. It is now also being implemented in some areas and barangays.



# MOVIE REVIEW

**By Cariza Anne Laguardia**




Is it really worth it to risk something for someone you love? This is exactly what the movie "*In the Name of Love*" is all about. It is not a typical cheesy movie but an enduring compassionate film.

It's a struggling love story between Emman Toledo (played by Aga Mulach and Cedes Fernandez (portrayed by Angel Locsin.) They hooked up with each other when they were in Japan as Cedes was then a prostitute while Emman was a dance instructor. Conflict occurred in their relationship when Emman took over a task given by the Yakuza for Cedes. Emman took it uponh himself to transport illegal money back to the Philippines. Unfortunately, he was caught for the crime and got jailed for seven years.

On the other hand, Cedes was so desperate to bring Emman out of jail and the only way she could do it was to remain being a prostitute. Different men used her until she met Dylan Evelino (portrayed by Jake Cuenca), a son of a well-known governor. Dylan fell hard for Cedes that he somehow led her out of prostitution. Cedes agreed to



# The JOY OF URBAN FARMING

The Project "The Joy of Urban Farming" adopts simple and practical technologies for backyard gardening. It grows and produces vegetables, root crops, ornamental and medicinal plants, and small fruits to enhance the capability of households to generate additional income.

The project employs only organic methods and no chemicals to promote the health and well-being of the citizenry, and aims to develop responsible mindsets, thus breaking the thinking community.

The Urban Farming effort in Quezon City has been undertaken in a 700-square meter Demo Farm Extension at the Quezon Memorial Circle, and in an even larger one in Novaliches. It is now also being implemented in some areas and barangays.





The office of the Vice Mayor is determined to propagate, diversify and achieve its goals, vision and objectives.

Workshops are held every Thursday and Friday in gardens inside schools and barangays, and green houses are being set up which are subsidized by Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte.

It is us citizens of this City who will make their urban agricultural program succeed, thus making Quezon City food sufficient, and a model city in Metro Manila.

Indeed, there is joy in urban farming! **(ovm/abner)**

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On the other hand, Cedes was so desperate to bring Emman out of jail and the only way she could do it was to remain being a prostitute. Different men used her until she met Dylan Evelino (portrayed by Jake Cuenca), a son of a well-known governor. Dylan fell hard for Cedes that he somehow led her out of prostitution. Cedes agreed to be Dylan's girlfriend on the condition that Emman would be freed from prison.

Things had changed as Emman got out. Yet, he was still bound to get close to Cedes, for it turned out that he saved Dylan from an alleged assassination. It was for that matter that Dylan offered him to be a dance instructor for Cedes for the upcoming governor's ball. The situation had positive and negative consequences. Positive because Emman and Cedes were able to straighten up issues in their relationship and Negative because Dylan discovered the affair between Emman and Cedes . This revelation could only mean that Emman and Cedes were in trouble again.

The worse scenario took place during the governor's ball. Dylan's brother , Homer Evelino ( portrayed by Ryan Eigenmann) was instructed by Dylan to kill Emman. Homer even told Emman that Cedes would also be killed. So Emman really struggled to escape from Homer to be able to save Cedes.

The venue is quiet when Emman arrives at the scene. Dylan and Cedes are even dancing when suddenly there is a burst of gunfire. Cedes is saved but Dylans life is put to risk.

The film may be shattering but it only wants to point out how much we give importance to the wellness of the people we care about. We too, just like the characters, would enter into risky situations just to provide for the needs of our loved ones.

Take the case of Angel's role. Girls are forced to enter prostitution especially if they are the breadwinners of their familes and it is difficult for the girls to accept that prostitution is the only way for their families survival. If girls are given equal opportunities they would not embrace work that leads to prostitution.