Belmonte-led QC council project wins intl award

THE Quezon City local government's mobile application for city ordinances, the Batas QC App, bagged an international award for "delivering citizen-centric services" through innovation and use of modern technology.

The Batas QC App is one of the recipients of the OpenGov Asia Excellence Award for Innovative and Disruptive Use of Technology in Delivering Citizen-centric Services and is the only local government initiative that received the award together with other national agencies.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte, who led the Quezon City Council in passing the ordinance for the Batas QC App, expressed gratitude for the recognition saying that the said award motivates the council more to implement innovative and radical measures in dealing with the different challenges in the city.

"This app is something that empowers us. It is something that makes the government transparent and at the same time, makes people aware of their rights, the laws, and the corresponding consequences of their violations," said Belmonte.

"Through this app, the people can easily refer to our ordinances without actually having to dig up the entire internet just to cite some provisions. They just have to download the app once, and they can already access all our laws in this database, that's why it is a lot easier to search," she added.

In November 2018, the Quezon City Council, headed by Belmonte, launched the Batas QC App in its bid to raise awareness on the city's laws and counter ordinance violations, while providing accessibility and transparency as the app also features announcements, schedules, and infographics relevant to the city.

The award was given at the Philippine OpenGov Leadership Forum held on April 25.