Belmonte vows to prevent re incidents

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Quezon City Mayor-elect Joy Belmonte yesterday vowed to implement long-term solutions to prevent fire incidents in the city.

"This year has brought us more fires than I have ever encountered. So one of the things I'll be pushing is lasting solutions to this perennial problem," the incumbent vice mayor said.

"Many of the settlements that experienced fire before were the ones affected by the same incident again. That is why we need to find the systemic causes of fires," Belmonte added.

She made the statement after fires hit Quezon City in the past weeks.

The incoming mayor said she plans to coordinate with the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to identify and reduce areas with faulty wirings.

Records from the local Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) showed that 785 out of 1,034 fire incidents in the city last year were due to faulty electrical wiring.

In partnership with Meralco, Belmonte said she intends to launch an electrification program for underprivileged communities to install individual electric meters in every household.

She also underscored the need to educate the people on fire prevention measures.

"We are also in talks with the BFP and Red Cross for the fire prevention program that we have started to roll out," Belmonte said.

"During my administration, we will intensify this program to educate more residents on the dangers of illegal electrical connections, octopus wiring and other risks," she added.

Belmonte said they have identified 43 communities with the most number of fire incidents that will be the initial focus of the program.

She said the city government was discussing with the National Housing Authority the possibility of declaring communities with informal settler families as danger zones to enable them to qualify for socialized housing.

"We are exploring our options for informal settlers. We are thinking of building fire-proof homes for them or provide socialized housing on a larger scale," she said.