THE DAILY tribune
Metro
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4 Monday, August 26, 2013

# QC slum kids play lego for first time

Children from slum areas in Barangay Holy Spirit recently congregated in KRIS Library-Quezon City to enjoy one afternoon of fun and learning as they play Lego sets for the first time.

The generous donations from Lego Foundation were made possible by Philippine- and California-based non-government organization (NGO) Project PEARLS (Peace, Education, Aspiration, Respect, Love, Smiles). The donations made jumpstarted "Lego Day" for KRIS Library to further its mission to spur passion for education and creativity in the minds of underprivileged children.

"Over 65 kids from the community came to KRIS Library's Lego Day. Upon hearing our invitation, they thought Lego meant "*ligo*," the Filipino word for bath. It was such a surprise for them to discover what Lego actually was," said Noel Cabauatan, the programs head for KRIS Library and an engineering student from the University of the Philippines.

During the course of the event, the kids were divided into groups and were tasked to create something out of the different Lego blocks, characters and toys that were given to them. When they had finished, a representative from the group explained the story behind their creation.

"What we made is a tower with an airplane on top. This is what we chose to do because none of us has ridden in an airplane before. But we hope we will someday," explained a young boy in Filipino.

Another group created a factory for cars, sharing that "we want to make a car so we can bring our families to different places." A volunteer then points out to them that, to design cars, they can someday become engineers.

Cabauatan added: "It gives me a feeling of satisfaction whenever I do something to contribute to the future of these kids; *yung nabibigyan mo sila ng bagong* experiences, *hindi sila* contained. There are a lot of things that they can learn outside the four corners of their classrooms and we are trying our best to give them those learning experiences."

Camilla and Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen of Lego Foundation punctuate the purpose of Lego Day in a letter addressed to the beneficiaries of their donations: "We believe that all children are potential builders of tomorrow. And we believe that through fun and creative play and learning, with the Lego Products, all children become better skilled to take responsibility for their own lives and thereby to take up the challenge of becoming active citizens in society."

"We're very thankful to Ms. Melissa Villa, the team from Project PEARLS and Lego Foundation for collaborating with us to give the children the opportunity. What we have done with Lego Day is similar to how we play with Lego blocks: we put pieces together to create something that will impact others' lives," Cabauatan said.

The Kristiyano-Islam Peace Library (KRIS), a non-profit, non-government institution, builds libraries and grants scholarships to students all over the Philippines. Their primary advocacy is to promote peace and progress through education, particularly to conflict- and poverty-stricken areas such as Mindanao. They currently have six libraries and support hundreds of scholars yearly.

* children

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETING
THE PHILIPPINES' LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

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# Children's Well-Being

Monday, March 25, 2013

Two Quezon City (QC) councilors proposed the creation of an Office for Children Affairs (OCA) to promote the protect the youth's "physical, moral, intellectual, and social well-being."

Councilors Aly Medalla and Alexis Herrera, in filing the ordinance, said QC's goal is to become one of the most child-sensitive, child-friendly, and child-responsive cities.

They added that the Philippines signed an agreement with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognizing the right of children to survival, development, protection, and participation.

* QC Children's

If the measure is approved, the OCA will be responsible in undertaking services, programs, studies and protection of children in the city. It will also be tasked to coordinate implementing the Quezon City Children's Code and national laws including the Newborn Screening Act, Anti-Child Pornography Act, and Special Protection for Working Children Act.

The office will also be the lead coordinating agency of all city ordinances pertaining to children and tasked to monitor the development and maintenance of childcare infrastructures. Medalla and Herrera said the "broad-spectrum of challenges faced by children today" highlights the need for OCA.

The State recognizes the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty and exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development," the proposed ordinance said.

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
P. 6
Monday, November 10, 2008



**PEDIATRIC CHECKUP. Quezon City Councilor Dr. Dorothy A. Delarmente (left) conducts a weekend check-up for children in barangays within the district, in line with her free medical service program in collaboration with the QC health authorities, the 'Tita Beth Volunteers' and practicing doctors, most of whom are her former classmates from the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH). (Sel Baysa)**

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DC - Children

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

# PEOPLE&EVENTS

D-4 Editor: TONY F. KATIGBAK MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008




**MEMORABLE DAY FOR KIDS:** Shown in photo (center) is Quezon City Majority Floorleader Ariel Inton (4th district) with his children Tony Boy and Ana Mariel when he sponsored a trip for kids afflicted with cancer at Manila Ocean Park recently. A memorable day for the kids, the trip was also in coordination with Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko Foundation headed by its executive director Jun Padua.

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THE PHIL. STAR
P. 18 SUNDAY MAY 18, 2008

# *Italy launches anti-TB project in QC*

Italy has launched a project for Filipino children suffering from tuberculosis (TB), the sixth leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the country.

Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier was the guest of honor and speaker at the launching recently of the L'Otto Per Amore (The Fight for Love), a joint project of the Fondazione Raphael Onlus and the Guardia di Finanzia, the military corps of the Italian finance ministry.

The Italian government's project aims to extend medical assistance to around 1,500 children with tuberculosis living in Payatas, Quezon City.

The Philippines has the ninth highest rate of TB infection in the world.

Lhuillier expressed his appreciation to the organizers for doing their share to address the problem and said the fight against TB has been on top of the agenda of both public and private sectors in the Philippines.

General Emilio Antonio Jacoboni represented the Guardia di Finanzia while Rev. Giovanni d'Ercole represented the Fondazione Raphael Onlus.

To raise the needed funds, a variety program featuring noted Italian singers and performers was held at the Auditorium Massimo in Rome on May 8, when the project was launched. Organizers also launched a "donate through text" drive.

**– Pia Lee-Brago**

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
C-5
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

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LOCAL HISTORY

# The TROUBLE with TV

## Know why you should control your kids' viewing time.

Contributed by
REGINA G. POSADAS

The rectangular box at the center of your living or family room has everything imaginable – cartoons, movies, soap operas, music videos, game shows, superheroes and villains, advertisements, sporting events, reality shows, news, pretty people, make-believe creatures, and tons of other vivid images and information.

It's no wonder that your child, young as s/he is, is mesmerized, and can sit and stare at the television for hours. But should you, the parent, let her or him do so?

### TOO MUCH OF TV

Maro T. Pilapil, directress of the preschool Kinderhaus Learning Center in South Triangle, Quezon City, believes that too much TV can be detrimental to children "mentally, emotionally, physically, and even psychologically." Hence she believes the amount of time kids spend in front of it should be regulated. She says children who consistently spend more than 4 hours per day watching TV are more likely to be overweight as they often eat while tuned in to their favorite shows.

Kids who view violent events, such as kidnapping or murder scenes in the movies (or reports in the news) are also more likely to believe that the world is scary and that something bad will happen to them. Similarly, the images that youngsters absorb can leave them disturbed and susceptible.

According to research, children 2 to 7 years old are particularly frightened by scary-looking things like monsters. Simply telling kids that those images aren't real won't calm them because they cannot yet discriminate between fantasy and reality.

Moreover, Pilapil says television watching takes the place of more meaningful activities such as reading, socializing, playing, or spending time outside.

### HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

Just how much TV then should children watch? Pilapil supports the advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics or AAP, given that there haven't been any recommendations or guidelines from any government agency or medical association in the Philippines regarding limits on kids' TV viewing.

According to the AAP, children older than 2 should watch no more than 1 to 2 hours a day of quality programming. Conversely, children younger than 2 should have no "screen time" (TV, DVDs, computers, or video games) at all.

The AAP reasons that the first two years of a child's life is a critical time for brain development, and TV can get in the way of exploring, learning, and spending time interacting and playing with parents and others. These activities help young children develop the skills they need to grow cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Not everything about TV is bad, however. Television, in moderation and with parental guidance, can be an excellent educator and entertainer, clarifies Pilapil. Preschoolers or children 2 to 6 years old, for instance, can get help learning the alphabet, counting, or speaking English from the TV, while adults can keep up with current events by watching the news.

Parents who watch TV with their kids, Pilapil says, have the prerogative to restrict viewing when they deem a show (whether a noontime show, a movie, a cartoon, or an advertisement) inappropriate or harmful to children. It is also an opportunity for moms and dads to explain to kids the contents of a show. The key here is moderation and parental guidance. What's important is that parents, not caregivers or *yayas*, have control over their child's viewing habits, stresses Pilapil.

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MANILA BULLETIN
APR. 22, 2008 C-5

# THE TROUBLE WITH TV



## SCHOOL-AGE KIDS AND TV

Inform your children that schoolwork (assignments, projects, quizzes, exams) takes precedence over leisure activities such as watching TV, playing video games and the like, counsels educator Maro Pilapil, directress of Kinderhaus Learning Center in Quezon City.

For some families, implementing the "No TV during schooldays" rule may work and can be effective. If this rule doesn't work, limiting TV viewing would be a more acceptable compromise to both the parent and the child, she says.

Remember that watching TV should be a privilege and not a right. A child should be given that privilege only after certain responsibilities have been accomplished (homework done, chores completed, etc.)

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LOCAL HISTORY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
PEOPLE&EVENTS
Editor: TONY F. KATIGBAK
B-6 SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008

# QC hosts summer camp for disadvantaged kids

Quezon City is living up to its billing as one of the country's child-friendliest cities.

After hosting a day-camp for special children in February, the city is now opening its door to some 500 disadvantaged children, who will be participating in a summer camp slated April 28 to 30 at the Orosa ground of the Balara Filtration Plant in Barangay Pansol.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. will lead city officials during the opening ceremonies.

Various socio-cultural activities will be conducted by the city's social services development department to provide participants with a venue for character-building and ensure their successful integration into the mainstream of society.

Chief among these are sports and arts activities aimed at enhancing their physical development.

Teresa Mariano is head of the city's social services development department.

The participants, whose ages range from nine to 18 years, will be encouraged to gain basic knowledge and full understanding of their rights based on the Convention on the Rights of Children. Orientation seminars will also be conducted to inform them about existing laws and structure on children, including Republic Act 9344, otherwise known as the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, Republic Act 7610 which governs the law against child abuse and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children.

The social services development department has coordinated with related city government agencies to ensure the success of the camp.

Among the agencies tapped in the activity are the QC Police District, barangay operations center, general services office, public employment services office, public affairs and information services office, QC anti-drug abuse council, city health department, parks development and administration department, environmental protection and waste management department, Philippine National Red Cross and the Metro Quezon Network, which is a group of non-government organizations working for the welfare of disadvantaged children in Quezon City.

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# Metro Manila

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Wednesday, March 7, 2007 3

## QC kids rights pushed

The Quezon City government has created the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) which will serve as the umbrella organization incorporating all program committees for children in conflict with the law.

Also, the council is envisioned to strengthen the implementation of the Juvenile Delinquency Welfare Act of 2006, protecting children's rights.

The LCPC is chaired by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., with the head of the Business Permit and Licensing Office and the City Planning and Development Office as co-chairman and secretariat, respectively.

Following its formation, Belmonte urged the involvement of the over 800 non-government organizations in Quezon City "to look and tap other areas, not properly covered, in addressing the matter."

He told council members that some 24 percent of the annual city government's budget goes to the welfare of children.

Belmonte said "over-all, this reaches to 84 percent, including the amount the city government appropriates annually, for the construction of school buildings and day care centers."

It was gathered that the city government is set to construct eight schoolhouses, consisting of 124 classrooms and 10 day care centers, apart from repairs and improvement of school facilities in various parts of the city. (Sel A. Baysa/Raul Gonzales)

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LOCAL HISTORY

QC - Children

NEWS PAPER M.S.I
DATE March 5, 2007
PAGE p. A-7
SUBJECT

# QC forms council to protect children

A CHILDREN'S welfare body has been formed in Quezon City to boost the implementation of the Juvenile Delinquency Welfare Act of 2006, protecting particularly minors who are in conflict with the law.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. created the Local Council for the Protection of Children during an organizational meeting at the Quezon City Hall Bulwagang Amoranto. The newly created body will serve as the umbrella organization integrating all program committees for children in the locality.

As council chairman, he named Business Permit and Licensing Office chief Pacifico Maghacot as co-chairman with the City Planning and Development Office as secretariat.

Belmonte said his administration, even before Republic Act 9344 was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo last year, has created three committees to look after the welfare of children. These are the health department's committee on early childhood and development, which provides health care and nutritional requirements to children aged 0-six years old; the committee on the protection of children against labor exploitation under the Public Employment Service Office; and the committee on the protection of children in conflict with the law.

The delinquent children are rehabilitated by the social services department, through its Molave Youth Homes. The project has won a special award from the Gawad Galing Pook Award giving recognition to outstanding projects and programs of local government units.

Belmonte told council members that 24 percent from the annual budget of the city government went to children's welfare.

He said overall, the allocation reached 84 percent, including the amount appropriated annually for the construction of school buildings and day care centers.

This year, the city is set to build eight schoolhouses, consisting of 124 classrooms and 10 day care centers, apart from repairs and improvement of school facilities.

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LOCAL HISTORY
QC - Children's Welfare

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007
A20

# Close watch on Internet cafés in QC mulled

By DJ Yap

SCHOOLCHILDREN WHO PLAY hooky by hanging out in Internet cafés and gaming centers in Quezon City may soon be barred from entering such establishments during class hours.

To keep grade school and high school students in the classroom, a Quezon City councilor is pushing for the regulation of Internet cafés, particularly in admitting minors.

Under a proposed ordinance authored by Xyrus Lanot, owners and operators of computer rental shops and gaming centers shall be prohibited from accepting students during school hours. But students who want to rent computers for writing reports or for doing research may be allowed entry, provided they show a written authorization from their teachers or other school authorities.

In such cases, the owner or manager of the computer rental shop shall ask for the student's name and other pertinent information and record the data in a logbook, according to the proposed ordinance.

They shall also be required to post signs outside their shops, stating that "minors are not allowed during regular school hours." Violators shall be fined P2,000 on the first offense and P3,000 on the second offense. Third time offenders shall be fined P5,000, on top of seeing the permanent revocation of their business permit.

Should the proposal pass, the Business Permits and Licensing Office and the Department of Public Order and Safety shall formulate and implement the rules and regulations within 30 days of its effectivity.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Dr - Children Dc

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

16 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003

# Belmonte focuses on child welfare programs

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. vowed yesterday to combat infant mortality, malnutrition and pursue an aggressive early childhood development program for newborns and growing children in the city.

In his first State of the Children Report at the Albert Hall of the Quezon City Council, Belmonte said the city government has allotted 20 percent of the budget, amounting to P1.18 billion, for various welfare programs for newborns and growing children.

"The child is one of the most important assets of the nation. Every effort should be exerted to promote his or her welfare and enhance opportunities for a useful and happy life," he said.

Belmonte said among the programs being pursued by the city government are reducing infant and child mortality, addressing the problems of malnutrition, pursuing early child care development and setting up numbers of functional and active barangay councils for protection of children.

He said the goal of his administration is to improve infant health by reducing mortality by as much as 30 percent. The city health department also intends to fully immunize some 64,908 children in the city's barangays.

He said the number of malnourished children will be further reduced from 9,122 in 2003 to 7,640 in 2004.

"Toward this end I have ordered the release of P10 million to fund various program starting with P3 million for extensive feeding of 3,831 malnourished children," the mayor said.

In the area of early care development program, the city government intends to increase pre-school participation from 22,448 to 26,936 for this year.

The mayor also announced the setting up of 205 day care centers with a three to five-year education and feeding program. The city government for this year has given free school bags and supplies to 14,000 children and assisted 44,030 in child abuse cases.

Belmonte, who has been cited by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as the most outstanding city mayor in the country, said the city government is effectively addressing the needs of the city's most disadvantaged and less fortunate citizens.

"We remain steadfast in our mission of promoting the well being of each city resident, most importantly the Quezon City child. Our future is in their hands. With unity, cooperation and focused direction, we will make this city a better place for our children," Belmonte said.

. QC child welfare programs