Belmonte vows transparency

BY GLEE JALEA

JOSEFINA "Joy" Belmonte was officially installed as Quezon City mayor at noon on Sunday, the second woman to become the city's chief executive after Adelina Rodriguez, who served from 1976 to 1986.

The city's Vice Mayor, Gian Sotto, was also sworn into office on Sunday.

Justice Estela Perla -Benabe administered the oath of office to Belmonte and Sotto.

They were accompanied by their respective fathers, former mayor and House speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte and Senate President Vicente Sotto 3rd, and other family members.

The mayor promised to return the "Belmonte Brand" of leadership by upholding fairness, honesty, transparency, accountability and zero corruption, especially during her first 100 days in office.

"My first executive order is the creation of internal audit under the Office for the City Mayor to ensure transparency and good governance under my administration," she said in her speech.

Representatives Anthony Peter Crisologo (First District), Precious Hipolito Castelo (Second District), Allan Benedict Reyes (Third District), Jesus Suntay (Fourth District), Alfred Vargas (Fifth District) and Jose Christopher Belmonte (Sixth District) also took their oath of office.

All elected local government officials assumed their posts on Sunday.

According to the Commission on Elections, 17,997 local positions were filled up in the May 13 elections.

Of the 17,997 local officials, 243 are district congressmen; 81 each for governor and vice governor; 780 provincial board members; 1,634 each for mayor and vice mayor; and 13,544 members of city and municipal councils.

Under the Constitution, the term of office of elective local officials shall be three years. No local official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms.

The term of office of all local elected officials, from governor down to the members of the municipal and city councils, start at 12 noon on June 30 and will end at noon of June 30, 2022.

WITH WILLIAM DEPASUPIL



SHE'S IN Quezon City Mayor Josefina 'Joy' Belmonte takes her oath of office. Beside her are her father former Quezon City mayor and House speaker Feliciano 'Sonny' Belmonte, and other family members. PHOTO BY RUY MARTINEZ