January - June 2014

WE CONNECT

A Publication of the Quezon City government through the Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office.(GADRCO)





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MAYOR HERBERT BAUTISTA'S SPEECH

WOMEN'S MONTH CULMINATING ACTIVITY



Mayor Bautista thanked those who have helped mainstreamed GAD in the different department/ offices in the city

Sa atin pong *Vice Mayor*, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, sa atin pong mga konsehal … at sa mga department heads po na nandito ngayon …sa atin pong mga panauhin mula sa *Department of Science and Technology* at sa inyong lahat na nandito, *Good Morning*… Una, I would like to thank the Lord na grumaduate na yung anak ko kahapon, happy naman ako doon dahil college na siya, sana matupad lahat ng pangarap niya. Second, I would like to thank lahat lahat kayong bumubuo sa bawat Quezon City Departments/ Offices lalo na sa mga department heads kasi today ay Culmination Day of Women's Month and we are very proud to say that we are one of the few local governments that have mainstreamed the GAD or the Gender and Development component sa iba't-ibang platform ng bawat department ng Quezon City. I would like to thank Ruby Palma and GADRCO, I would like to thank our budget officer, our BOC and everybody who has been instrumental in mainstreaming GAD. Most especially I would like to thank the Vice Mayor and the City Council for leading women not only in the Gender Festivity Movement in the city government but also in their protection by applying the mandate of the VAWC Act or Violence Against Women and Children Act. She is a very strong advocate so palakpakan natin si Vice Mayor… So now as we speak, there are still a lot of things to be done. Namainstream na natin ang GAD sa iba't-ibang departments dito sa loob ng Quezon City. May mga GAD Focal Persons tayo sa barangay level ang offices… We are still pushing that hanggang maaari hindi lang sa gobyerno tayo maglagay ng focal persons but also maglalagay din tayo sa mga private sector entities as mandated in our GAD Code and the Magna Carta of Women. We are starting and we look forward before end of this term or half of next term sa pagbuo na natin ng components ng Gender and Development Movement sa lahat ng sangay both public and private sectors ng Quezon City. So, muli maraming salamat po and God bless you all.



MOA Signing of QC Friendship Arch at Banaue between Mayor Herbert Bautista and VM Joy Belmonte with the QC Chinatown Development

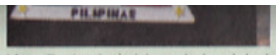
From the Mayor's Office



Mayor Bautista blew the birthday cake given by Vice Mayor Belmonte and the 19th Council at QC Hall May 12 flag ceremony



Mayor Bautista gave Certificates of Recognition and recognition reward worth P10,000 including Birthday Gift worth 1,000 to 5 centenarians during the May 19 flag ceremony



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FROM MY OFFICE WINDOW

By Dr. RUBY PALMA, mpa, dpa

(Note from the Columnist)
For this issue, I would like to give way to this article on QC's Gintong Ina awards, spearheaded by Mayor Herbert Bautista on 2006 when he was still a Vice-Mayor – a truly noble program showing a son's love for his mother Rosario Bautista.

The fortitude of contemporary mothers may not be identified or classified with heroines such as Gabriela Silang or Melchora Aquino. Nonetheless, their daily routines and sacrifices, not to mention their love and guidance which go far beyond childhood, are worthy of appreciation and gratitude.

As mothers, they are an epitome of strength with their untiring duty to their family and community. Their silent contributions are a vital part in nation-building as they nurture the most basic unit of our society, the family.

We are challenged to show forth the glorious moments of motherhood. It is for this reason that we continue to implement this program, to give recognition and acknowledgement to six (6) most promising mothers of Quezon City.

Heroine mothers were again chosen and awarded at the Central Place Events in Timog Ave. last May 30, 2014. The Gawad Ulirang Ina award is given every two years by QC, now on its 8th year.

The objectives of the contest are the following:

1. To give recognition to mothers who have contributed to the development of Quezon City's moral recovery agenda.
2. To recognize the contributions of mothers in the context of Filipino motherhood.
3. To inspire the youth by recognizing women's achievements in demonstrating positive Filipino values and tradition.

8th GAWAD ULIRANG INA

By Alay Kay Inay Foundation

In 2014, the following was the list of judges where GADRCO participated in the screening and final judging:

A. Screening Committee

1. Ms. Carmelita G. dela Cruz – Consultant/Evaluator (OSCA)
2. Ms. Jocelyn M. Garcia – President (Rotary Club of Cubao-West)
3. Ms. Ma. Theresa C. Tie – Businesswoman
4. Ms. Neliza P. Quilondrino (GADRCO)
5. Ms. Marie Concepcion T. Roño (GADRCO)

B. Final Judging

1. Dr. Mary Ruby M. Palma – Head, GADRCO
2. Ms. Daisy S. Escario – Master Teacher II, DepEd-QC
3. Ms. Hilda F. Gaurino – DILG Accredited National Values Trainer

The list of winners, 2014:

1. Carmen F. Ramos – Ulirang Ina ng Unang Distrito
2. Aida A. Misolas – Ulirang Ina ng Ikalawang Distrito
3. Leticia N. Buhay – Ulirang Ina ng Ikatlong Distrito
4. Rosalinda S. Borlongan – Ulirang Ina ng Ikaapat na Distrito
5. Bella C. Ignacio – Ulirang Ina ng Ikalimang Distrito
6. Elena L. Bacud – Ulirang Ina ng Ikaanimna Distrito
7. ***Ma. Elena M. Ruiz – ULIRANG INA NG LUNGSOD QUEZON 2014***

The event's success was made possible by the Alay Kay Inay ng Lungsod Quezon Foundation staff, families of the nominees and winners who attended and the support of Ms. Harlene Bautista Tejedor, President, Alay Kay Inay ng Lungsod Quezon Foundation, Inc., the Tanghalang Melchora dancers from QCPU, and Mr. Chuckie Dreyfus who hosted the event.



CONNECTING

by MS. DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

MUSIC, MAESTRO!

The flag-raising and retreat ceremonies in front of the QC City Hall are without a doubt, made lively by the sounds of saxophones and trombones, trumpets and drums produced by our own QC Symphonic Band. The sounds reverberating throughout the compound make us want to march or sing or sigh, depending on the pieces the musicians play.

The first time I heard these musicians play was at the city's Parangal Awards held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. They were playing the Orpheus Overture, the musical score from the movie "Lion King," and an OPM medley so animatedly, so professionally. Mayor Sonny Belmonte, now Speaker of the House, was beaming with pride while listening to the band.

The band was organized in 1989 as the Quezon City Brass Band, on the initiative of Councilor Jose Paculda, and approved by the city council headed by then Mayor Jun Simon. Five years ago, it was renamed Quezon City Symphonic Band. The 60-person ensemble rehearses in a room on the eighth floor of the Civic Center building. It is a project of the city's Cultural and Tourism committee and is now under supervision of Vice-Mayor Joy Belmonte.



The Quezon City Symphony Orchestra.



Band master, Mr. Arnel S. Sevillano

Aside from the flag-raising and retreat ceremonies at the city hall grounds, the band plays at the city's barangays' fiestas, and at functions of private companies, religious events (like processions), and holds concerts in malls and school campuses. On June 12, 1997, it won the Best Conductor and Best Band award during the Metro Manila Band Competition held at the Luneta grandstand under the sponsorship of the Philippine Cultural Movement. Their winning piece was Veteranos de la Revolucion, the local equivalent of Tchaikowsky's 1812 .

The band has performed in far-away places as Capalonga in Camarines Sur, Quezon province, Batangas, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and Cardona, Rizal, and Santiago, Isabela. Recently they played at the Holy Family Parish in Kamias, and the litson festival in La Loma. Their repertoire, depending on the requests of inviting parties, range from classics adjusted for bands, and modern, contemporary, pop, rock, ballroom music, and of course, to martial marches. They recently performed Tchaikowsky's 1812, complete with a cannon, at a concert during the Marilao, Bulacan fiesta, matching their wits with the 40-person Marilao provincial band. They've also played at shopping centers as SM, Robinsons, and Fisher Mall, the Meralco Theater, and over DWW774 radio.

The band is composed of the "finest selected musicians all over Metro Manila and the National Capital Region," band master Arnel Sevillano, 50, said. Ages ranging from 25 to 55, they come from different bands in Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Bulacan and Nueva Ecjia. Some are music school graduates, others undergraduates, and high school graduates. They passed auditions given by the conductors, Enrico Adacruz and Amado Sarreal. As band master, Arnel prepares the band's activities, and Balagtas Recana, band coordinator, arranges transportation for the band when it plays outside of City Hall as one of his responsibilities.

According to Arnel, a brass band consists of woodwind, brass, wind and percussion instruments, but it does not have critical instruments like oboe, Ebclarinet, alto clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, baritone saxophone, marimba, and electric guitar which make up the symphonic band. A brass band performs outdoors, and walks around, like in a parade. The QC Symphonic Band is like a symphony orchestra; although it does not have string instruments, it performs indoors, like in a concert.

Most of the band members grew up appreciating brass bands parading around town during festive occasions. Arnel's grandfather played the snare drum with the Banda Puti of Navotas, and grandson Arnel gleefully followed the band wherever it performed. He started playing the clarinet at the age of 10, and joined the St. Peter Band of Navotas.

Arnel finished high school at Arellano University in Malabon, and the civil engineering course at the University of the East on full scholarships granted to band members.

After graduation, he worked for two construction companies, then joined the QC brass band as a clarinetist. He left for Korea where he worked as factory worker, then after a year, returned to Quezon City where he eventually became one of three band masters. Two of them – Willy Cruz and Larry Bartello, both UP music graduates, are now in Bahrain where they are currently teaching a military band. The musicians, understandably, would like to work as musicians abroad where they could make more money, said Arnel.

The band members are regular city government employees. Invitations for their services are addressed to Vice Mayor Belmonte.

Two members are females; one plays the French horn, the other, the trumpet. A plan to organize an all-female band was abandoned when some of the women got married and resigned, if not went abroad.

The players' dream is to perform in other parts of the country. And, also, to have a building of their own where they can rehearse without bothering city hall employees, and spend the night in after performances that last near midnight.

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A Tribute to Mothers

I remember my mother as a disciplinarian who most of the time, beside you, mom loves you so much) when I was down. I miss her hands

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near midnight.

A Tribute to Mothers...

by Rico de Leus

A mother is the greatest blessing of GOD to each one of us. She is the soft -spoken member of the family whose words of wisdom mold minds and whose acts which impart lessons and experiences that create memories that are worth keeping.

She is the silent type of being who kneels down and prays with tears while we are enjoying the laughter, the music, and the foods and the drinks we enjoy with friends – and she is always patiently waiting to wipe out alcohol's effect when we return home.

She's not one of the telecommunications companies that the country has today, not even one of its promos, but she offers a 24/7 service, makes unlimited calls with unlimited patience when needed, and shares with one's load with ultimate love bundled with immortal care.

Motherhood is a lifetime nurturing job. It's a fulltime work with no day off and no monetary returns.



Mr. Rico de Leus with Inay Goring.

As the youngest member in a family of nine, more often than not, I experienced love rather than bullying from my older siblings – thanks to my mom, Inay Goring, who was always there to protect me and always reminded my six older brothers of my childhood's insensitivity.

I remember my mother as a disciplinarian who most of the time, especially when there were visitors present in our home, talked with her eyes as she stopped us from doing what she thought was unnecessary.

She taught me how to be business-minded, to value what I have earned, to bear in mind the beauty of being honest and trustworthy, and helped me to learn by heart that what I have today is a God-given gift to be treasured and be thanked for.

Equipped with prayers and pleas for divine providence, Mom, with a heavy heart, tearfully battled and managed to raise her offspring into becoming God- fearing individuals — a struggle that a lady in a one-woman family had to bear.

On May 4, 2014, at the age of 81, merely seven days before the whole world celebrated Mother's Day, my mom passed away, leaving with her family her inspiring words of wisdom, the love and the many tearfully recalled memories of being together.

Truly, I miss the voice who often called me *"bunso,"* a voice that whispered *"Kaya mo yan anak, nandito lang ako sa tabi mo, mahal na mahal ka ng inay"* (you can do it son, I'm here beside you, mom loves you so much) when I was down. I miss her hands that rubbed out even unbearable pains, cooked my favorite food and scratched my back when itchy; her eyes that told me "It's alright" and often winked to show satisfaction with my work – saying that I'm on the right track; her ears that never stopped to listen to all my queries and complains; and her lips that kissed my aches away.

With sincerest heart, I honor my mother, wife Juliet and all the mothers out there for their untiring care and unconditional love for their loved ones – the care that shape today's and tomorrow's generations. You are the big "WHO" behind our beings - the person who raises mankind well.

To my beloved Inay Goring, thank you for making me feel so special everyday. I know that there is no way I can ever really thank you for what you have done for me but I still want, to the fullest of my voice, shout my modest gratitude and thanks to the wonderful and superwoman of my life who guided me all the way and made me what I am now. Thank you *Inay*. You will always be in my heart. *Mahal na mahal po kita.*

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LTC Mary Ruby M. Palma, head of GADRCO with staff



Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon contingent



Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and National Printing Office (NPO) GAD representatives



Philippine Information Agency contingent



Councilor Lena Marie Juico with her staff.



Blown up poster of WM theme on QC Hall grounds



National Printing Office contingent.



District 1 and District 2 representatives.



Women army reservists of the Civil Military Operations

Sulong, Mga Juana

Philippine Information Agency contingent



National Printing Office contingent.

Councilor Lena Marie Juico with her staff.



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Blown up poster of WM theme on QC Hall grounds



Women army reservists of the Civil Military Operations

Sulong, Mga Juana

(This speech was delivered by Councilor Lena Marie Juico, Chair, Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality during the Women's Month kick –off celebration held in QC Hall lobby on March 3.)



Councilor Lena Marie Juico recognized women's efforts in nation building

It is March once again, hence it is the time to commemorate the victories as well as the continuing struggles of women. The whole Month of March is Women's Role in History Month; while the first week of March is Women's Week, and March 8 is National Women's Day. As chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family Relations, for me this month is of significance as we take stock of what we still need to do in our continuing journey for women's rights and empowerment.

The theme of this year : *"Juana, ang Tatag Mo ay Tatag Natin sa Pagbangon at Pagsulong!"* is very timely as we pay much deserved tribute to the strong, resilient and ever inspiring *"Juanas"* who brought inspiring changes here in the country and across the globe. Admittedly, our nation has had its share of challenges and disasters in the past year, both natural and human- made: from the 7.2 earthquake that hit Bohol and Cebu, to typhoon *"Yolanda"* which wreaked havoc in Visayas and Mindanao, to political upheavals and relentless scandals. However, our Filipino spirit remains indomitable and unbowed, and the strength and courage of *Juanas* are undoubtedly pivotal in our continuing journey as a people.

Hence, our 2014 Women's Month Celebration is the best time to highlight the "diverse catalysts of change" who untiringly volunteered their services in times of disaster, conflict and calamity. Let us continue to recognize and celebrate the role of women in the rehabilitation process and our over-all contributions to progress and development. *"Sulong mga Juanas, Ang Tatag Mo ay Tatag Natin sa Pagbangon at Pagsulong!"*



Participants of the Gender Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Medical Field Dispensaries and Relocation Centers



Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) contingent

Women's Month Celebration 2014



Belmonte with the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO)



Vice Mayor Belmonte informed everybody of her office's activities for the WM celebration



oño of GADRCO on a planning session with GAD FPs of NGAs on onth activities


Contingent of the Civil-Military Operations of the 15th Infantry Division, NCR



mmission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) representatives


Head GADRCO Dr. Palma planned activities with Brgy GAD FPs weeks before

By Rommel V. Manlangit

Photos by Froilan San Juan

The 2014 Women's Month (WM) celebration in QC, wherein its kick-off and culminating ceremonies were organized by the QC GAD Council through the facilitation of the Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office, (GADRCO) was a success like the previous ones, this time stressing a more gender sensitized QC than ever before.

The month -long event with the theme *"Juana, Ang Tatag Mo Ay Tatag Natin Sa Pagbangon at Pagsulong,"* kicked off March 3 and culminated March 31 in the QC Hall Risen Garden, highlighted by statements on the empowerment of women by 1st District Councilor Lena Marie Juico, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte and Mayor Herbert Bautista.

In her March 3 speech, the new head of the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality, Councilor Juico, said that the theme was very timely as it pays much deserved tribute to the strong and resilient "Juanas" who have brought inspiration to people on an international level due to the disasters that have challenged Filipinos in the Visayas and Mindanao last year.

"The celebration is the best time to highlight the women catalysts of change who volunteer themselves in times of disasters and calamities. The strength and courage of 'Juanas' is undoubtedly pivotal in our continuing journey as a people" she added.

everybody that "we must not forget that we have more to do that's why the GAD Trainers are here whose purpose is to educate our society about the rights of women."

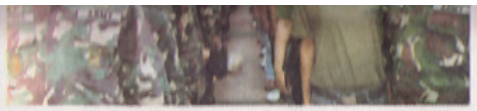
In the culminating ceremony of Women's Month, Mayor Bautista thanked all departments and offices of QC especially the department heads. He was proud to say that the city is one of the few local governments that have mainstreamed GAD and its proponents on different platforms. He said there are still a lot of things to be done besides designating GAD Focal Persons (GAD FPs) in barangays and a few gov't agencies; he is still pushing for a GAD FP system in the private sector. The mayor expressed hope that before his term ends, he would be able to complete the component of a GAD movement in all public and private sectors in QC.

Mayor Bautista thanked Head GADRCO Dr. Mary Ruby Palma, the City Budget Office, the Barangay Operations Center (BOC) and "everybody who has been instrumental in mainstreaming GAD."

Activities held in coordination with GADRCO in the kick-off ceremony were an oath -taking of the first batch of 30 GAD Trainers who recently passed a qualification course on Training of Trainers at the UP College of Social Welfare and Community Development, and a courtesy call on Mayor Bautista by the guests of honor specifically Brig.



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Contingent of the Civil Military Operations of the 15th Infantry Division, NCR



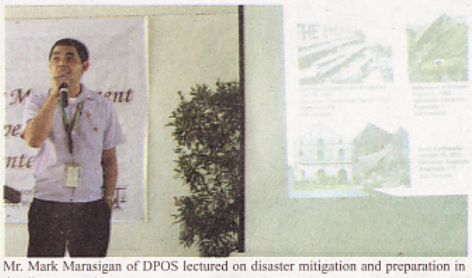
nmission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)representatives



Head GADRCO Dr. Palma planned activities with Brgy GAD FPs weeks before the WM kick-off



sta and VM Belmonte with winners of the Essay Writing Contest on nder Ssensitive Film in the MMFF and the Best GAD practice in i.



Mr. Mark Marasigan of DPOS lectured on disaster mitigation and preparation in the disaster seminar.



no-Zobel contingent.



Batch 1 of HMB GAD Trainers took their oath during Women's Month in QC Hall

Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte and Mayor Herbert Bautista.

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"The celebration is the best time to highlight the women catalysts of change who volunteer themselves in times of disasters and calamities. The strength and courage of 'Juanas' is undoubtedly pivotal in our continuing journey as a people" she added.

In her speech, Vice Mayor Belmonte praised Councilor Juico for her inclusion of LGBTs in her committee. She acknowledged the participants, especially the women of QC, who attended the kick-off ceremony in full force to indicate support for their women constituents. She also commended fellow Filipinos who are well known to be "matapang, tagalingkod at tagasulong ng pagbabago". She said, "Tayo rin ay sumusulong sa imahe ng kababaihan sa buong mundo." The Vice Mayor then proudly stated, *"Sa Quezon City, pantay-pantay na ang kababaihan at kalalakihan."*

"We are lucky because in other countries in Asia, women are viewed as inferior to men," she said. As an indicator of the empowerment of women in the Philippines, she said, many key government positions are occupied by women like Secretary Leila De Lima (DOJ), Grace Pulido Tan (COA), Ombudsperson Carpio Morales and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno. She reminded hope that before his term ends, he would be able to complete the component of a GAD movement in all public and private sectors in QC.

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Immediately after the kick-off was a seminar on "Gender Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Medical Field Dispensaries and Relocation Centers with BGen Javier and Mike Marasigan of the DPOS, also Special Assistant for Operations at the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Council as resource persons.

In the culminating ceremony, winners of an annual essay writing contest among QC teachers and students in the high school and college categories on the Most Gender Sensitive Film in the 2013 Metro Manila Film Festival, and the Best Department in Gender Mainstreaming in QC, were awarded by Mayor Bautista and Vice Mayor Belmonte.



Barangay - yan:

Ang 'ABLE' na DISABLE ng Brgy. HOLY SPIRIT

By Kagawad Emma Espino, GAD Focal Person

Tuwing Mayo ay aligaga ang lahat sa pagbibigay pugay sa ating mga minamahal na ina dahil sa pagdiriwang ng *Mother's Day*. Ngunit lingid sa kaalaman ng lahat, sa buwan din na ito ay binibigyan ng pagkilala ang mga may kapansanan o *"Persons with Disability" (PWD)*. Kaya noong ika-2 ng Mayo, ay ginanap ang kaunaunahang *"PWD Day-Just One Day" (Job-Trade-Scholarship Fair)* sa SM City Fairview.

Sa pagtutulungan ng BBMC (Bigay-Buhay *Multi-Purpose Cooperative*) at *USAid* katuwang ang *SM Program on Disability Affair* at mga *government and non-government institutions*, ay inilunsad ang *Project SELP (Support the Employment and Livelihood of Persons with Disability)*.

Dito nagsama-sama ang may isang libong PWD sa Metro Manila at nabigyan ng pagkakataon na mag-*apply* sa trabaho. Sila rin ay nabigyan ng pagkakataon na mag-aral ng nararapat na *skills*, o mag- *apply* sa mga *scholarship grants* para sa mga gusto magtapos ng pag-aaral.

Kasama sa mga naimbitahan ng BBMC, sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan ng inyong lingkod Kagawad Emma Espino, ay ang sampung PWD ng Barangay Holy Spirit na napahiram ng dagdag puhunan para sa kani-kanilang mga maliliit na negosyo. Bawat isa ay binigyan ng dagdag puhunan base sa liit o laki ng kanilang negosyo, mula sa 3,000 minimum na puhunan hanggang sa maximum na 5,000. Ang halagang ito ay kanilang huhulugan linggo-linggo na may tubong 1% lamang.

Si Ricardo Baticos na tinaguriang "Mr. Kalan" ng Brgy. Holy Spirit, ay isa sa mga nakatanggap dahil sa kahanga-hangang imbesyon niyang "kalan de uling." Gawa sa hinulmang semento gamit ang mga lumang lata, nakagawa siya ng kalan na uling ang ginagamit at pinababaga ng blower na siya rin ang gumagawa. Hindi naging hadlang ang kanyang kapansanan (apat na taon na siyang nakatali sa isang *wheel chair* dahil sa isang aksidenteng kinasangkutan niya nung siya ay isang driver pa lamang ng jeep) para gumawa ng mga kaparaanan upang kumita para sa kanyang pamilya.

Samantala, namigay ang *USAID* ng donasyon na nagkakahalaga ng P100,000 sa mga naimbitihan sa okasyon.

Dumalo ang kinatawan ng ika -limang distrito ng QC na si Alfred Vargas upang mamahagi naman ng sampung (10) *wheelchair* para sa mga may kapansanan.

Nasa okasyon din ang SSS, Philhealth at DOST-NCR.

Naging matagumpay ang nasabing okasyon para maipadama sa mga PWD na sila ay mga miyembro pa rin ng lipunan, may pantay na mga karapatan, at hindi dapat isantabi lamang dahil sa kapansanan. Bagkus, hindi basehan ang panlabas na kaanyuan ng tao at dapat tingnan ay ang kakayanan.





CEBU CITY GAD FOCALS' *LAKBAY ARAL* TO QC

By Luisa B. Vidal and Rommel Manlangit



Dr. Palma welcomed Lakbay Aral guests from Cebu City

The Federation of Barangay Gender and Development Focal Persons of Cebu City, its officials and staff composed of 124 persons visited Quezon City April 24 as part of their Capability Building Benchmarking to learn more about the city's advocacies and achievements on GAD.

The group headed by Cebu City Women and Family Affairs Commission Exec. Director Marie Bongato was welcomed by Dr. Ruby Palma, head of GADRCO and the GADRCO team leads in the QC Hall inner lobby where a program was held. Dr. Palma briefed the participants on the city's population. Marita Sianghiao, GAD Focal person of CPDO, talked about the functions of

10. Instituting and implementing policy on gender and child-sensitive structures and environment in the city
11. Protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly and other vulnerable groups
12. Establishing substance abuse rehabilitation centers and programs

Ms. Sianghio said the 12-point GAD agenda was developed to provide specific priority programs and actions of the city government aimed at enhancing gender equality and promoting women and child rights.

Marie Rono, GADRCO training

(Bigay-Buhay *Multi-Purpose Cooperative*) at *USAid* katuwang ang *SM Program on Disability Affair* at mga *government and non-government institutions*, ay inilunsad ang *Project SELP (Support the Employment and Livelihood of Persons with Disability)*.

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Cong. ALFRED VARGAS of Dist. 6 Q.C. together with the USAID REPRESENTATIVE, giving the check to the PWD beneficiaries of Bigay Buhay Micro- Finance Corp. (BBMC) from Barangay Holy Spirit.



Sir Richard (in yellow t-shirt) of BBMC with some of the PWD beneficiaries of Barangay Holy Spirit and "Mr. Kalan" Ricardo Baticos in his wheel chair (front row,right).



One of the Bosses of Bigay Buhay Micro- Finance Corp. (BBMC) Sir Richard, being given a Plaque of Appreciation by the USAID.



KALAN DE ULING WITH AIR BLOWER, made and handcrafted by PWD Ricardo Baticos, *"Mr. Kalan"* of Brgy. Holy Spirit, QC

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1. Improving access to affordable housing
2. Instituting more programs for workers in the informal sector and for returning OFW's on livelihood, skills training, and microenterprises
3. Preventing violence against women and homosexuals
4. Improving reproductive health services
5. Improving access to nutrition and other health services
6. Mainstreaming gender education in schools
7. Strengthening city gender and development programs and policies
8. Promoting gender and child sensitive coverage in media
9. Increasing access of women and children to justice
10. Instituting and implementing policy on gender and child-sensitive structures and environment in the city
11. Protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly and other vulnerable groups
12. Establishing substance abuse rehabilitation centers and programs

Ms. Sianghio said the 12-point GAD agenda was developed to provide specific priority programs and actions of the city government aimed at enhancing gender equality and promoting women and child rights.

Marie Rono, GADRCO training specialist, oriented the delegates on GADRCO programs, plans and activities. GADRCO team leads gave a briefing on their respective functions and outputs. Also discussed were the Enchanced Justice on Wheels program, the reactivation of the City GAD council, and advocacies in gender in culture, the environment, poverty and anti-trafficking of persons, gender mainstreaming in media and violence against women and children (VAWC).

GAD Focal Person Josephine Galimba of Barangay Lagro and Rosario Veloso of Barangay Masambong shared the GAD information dissemination programs of their barangays and how these were carried out which resulted in their barangay's winning the Best GAD Practice in Barangay last year.

Ms. Bongato on the other hand talked about best GAD practices in the National Capital Region that could be replicated in the barangays.

Some Cebu Officials also visited Barangay Central and Barangay Pinyahan during the day.

GENDER AND THE RESERVE FORCE IN TIMES OF CALAMITIES

By Rommel V. Manlangit and Tao Avez

The Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office (GADRCO) in coordination with the Philippine Army Ready Reserve and QC Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (QC DRRMC) has been vigorously pushing programs advocating gender awareness in disaster preparedness and response from the QC departments and offices concerned, down to the barangay levels and family units.

In connection with this, a seminar entitled *"Gender Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Medical Field Dispensaries"* was held at the QC high-rise building last March.

The participants were representatives from the QC DRRMC, Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), QC officers, and AFP reservists notably Col. Alexis Tamondong, Col. Corneto Vinluan, Major Mabute, and Major Araza. GADRCO Head Dr. Mary Ruby Palma, also a commissioned officer (Lieutenant Colonel) of the Philippine Army, 15th Infantry Division NCR (Ready Reserve), facilitated the event as OIC of the Civil Military Operations, NCR Operations, NCR and invited the resource persons/ speakers for the event, Brig. Gen. Marcelo Javier Jr., AFP Division Commander 15th Infantry Division (Ready Reserve) and Karl Marasigan of the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS), also Special Assistant for Operations at the QC DRRMC.



BGen Javier lectured on the devastating effects of earthquakes that hit Haiti

Brig. Gen. Javier spoke on the topic "Family Information Plan: A Critical and Doable Local Disaster Preparedness Plan" that would prepare QC's residents for disasters. The basis for his presentation, was Republic Act 10121 of 2010 or the Philippine Disaster Risk and Management Law which provides for 15% of budgets to be allocated for preparedness and 30% for relief.

He cited Republic Act No. 7077 of 1991 or the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Law, and Resolution No. 5 of the Red Cross Rizal Chapter which trains citizens for disaster specific preparedness essentials for preparedness and response.

General Javier said that in the event a disaster occurs, four groups must be on hand: A command, group, security and traffic control, a medical control an information control.

1. Command Group 2. Security and Traffic Control Group 3. Medical Control Group 4. Information Control Group.

Lastly, he reiterated that the goal is to institutionalize a culture of preparedness, and the mission, to assist families and provide leadership. The objectives are to organize, train, equip, and manage women and their families in disaster risk reduction management, as well as to develop and institutionalize collaborative planning programs among neighbors and community stakeholders.

Aside from his duties on the Army ready reserve, General Javier is currently a consultant crisis management specialist, the chairperson and the national president for the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines, executive director and member of the Board and chairperson of the Philippine Red Cross Rizal Chapter.

The other speaker, Karl Marasigan, presented legal mandates on disasters and informed participants that the QC DRRMC is currently headed by the Mayor Herbert Bautista as chairman, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte as vice chair, Elmo DG. San Diego, Ph.D. PESE, as action officer, the QC DRRMO Secretariat, and various departments concerned. He reported that an ongoing project of the QCDRRM is orienting 136 barangays with the MMEIRS study, RA 10121, Basic Life Support, Disaster Preparedness, and Water Search and Rescue. Capacity building is also being extended towards 45 public schools scattered around the six districts of QC numbering to 5,101 participants. To add, Junior Rescuer Orientation and Training seminars have been held covering Early Warning Systems, and Evacuation Management, among others.

Marasigan urged the finalization of contingency plans for worst case scenarios, increase the capacity of women and their families as disaster action teams, enhance public awareness in preparedness, strengthen the implementation process of land use management strategies, and construct safe, resilient, and permanent evacuation centers.

He ended his presentation with the definition of resilience in the context of a disaster, as the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely manner, including the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures.

2014 GAD SUMMIT OF THE DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS

By: Dr. Estrella Merca (Education Program Supervisor & GAD FP)

The Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Person of the Division of City Schools headed by Dr. Estrella C. Merca, GAD Focal Person of the Division of City Schools, Quezon City, and Dr. Freddie V. Avendaño, Assistant



Schedule of Capacity-Building for QC Barangays

Topic/Title	Date	Venue	No. of Hrs.	No. of Participants	Reservation Deadline
Module 1/GAD 101	March	City	8 hrs.	30-35 pax	Registration

Tamondong, Col. Cometo Vinluan, Major Mabute, and Major Araza. GADRCO Head Dr. Mary Ruby Palma, also a commissioned officer (Lieutenant Colonel) of the Philippine

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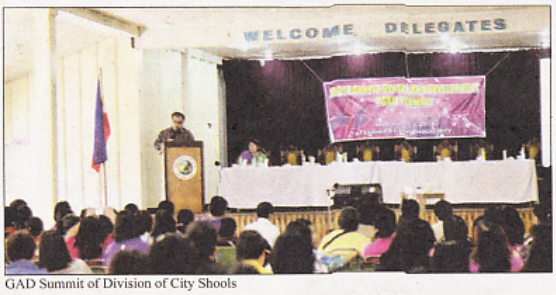
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The Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Person of the Division of City Schools headed by Dr. Estrella C. Merca, GAD Focal Person of the Division of City Schools, Quezon City, and Dr. Freddie V. Avendaño, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent GAD in-charge held March 21-23 the Annual Summit 2014 with the theme "Strengthening City-wide and School-based Mechanism to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children," with special focus on Anti-Child Bullying, Teenage Pregnancy, and Anti-Trafficking.



GAD Summit of Division of City Shools

Two hundred fifteen GAD Focal Persons participated in the summit. They came from different elementary and secondary schools, the Division Organization of Values Federation officers, the Division Office, and personnel and executive officers.

Discussions focused on the following imperatives:

1. Enhance GAD FOCAL point persons to lead GAD advocacy and mainstreaming in their respective schools;
2. Provide necessary information/mechanism to enforce Anti-Trafficking Law, and prevention of violence against women and children.
3. Address different VAWC and sexual harassment issues particular in the workplace.
4. Ensure and sustain support in monitoring and reporting of GAD related activities and serving as catalysts for gender responsive planning.

Participants renewed their vows as GAD advocates of the Division of City Schools Quezon City as they committed themselves to the battle cry against Gender-Based related violence.

Thus a stronger and more equipped GAD Focal Point System will face the challenges of School year 2014-2015.

GAD Focal Point/Persons will be more sensitive to the issues concerning violence against women and children. They will be more sensitive to the victims and ensure complete secrecy and confidentiality of cases on hand.

The summit participants brought home the challenge of Dr. Freddie V. Avendaño entitled:

K – nowledge
E – agerness to
A – ssessment and
R – each and
M – easurement
C – are as GAD
A – dvocates

We also want to congratulate the Division of City Schools, Quezon City for winning the Best Department in the Gender Mainstreaming Practices 2014 award. The division won the same award March 26, 2012.

Another source of pride for the city is its winning first place in gender mainstreaming in the whole NCR. All departments of the city participated in the search for the awardee.

Schedule of Capacity-Building for QC Barangays

Topic/Title	Date	Venue	No. of Hrs.	No. of Participants	Reservation Deadline
Module 1/GAD 101 Gender Sensitivity Training	March 12, 2014	City Personnel Office, Conference Room	8 hrs.	30-35 pax	Registration closes on March 5, 2014
Module 2/GAD 102 Thematic or In Depth Study of Issues and Mandates on GAD	May 14, 2014	EPWMD, Conference Room	8 hrs.	30-35 pax	Registration closes on May 5, 2014
Module 3/GAD 103 GAD Planning & Budgeting & Mainstreaming	July 9, 2014	City Personnel Office, Conference Room	8 hrs.	30-35 pax	Registration closes on July 1, 2014
Module 4/GAD 104 Special Topics 1) Assertive Language & Behavior 2) Gender in Risk & Disaster Management Juvenile Justice Law 3) PGA	Nov. 12, 2014	EPWMD Conference Room	8 hrs.	30-35 pax	Registration closes on November 4, 2014

Notes:

1) First Come, First serve reservation (Pax to be limited to seating capacity).
2) For those who are interested, endorsement by the Punong Barangay as the Official Participant is required.
3) Kindly bring your own brown bag style as we will not provide food.
4) To those who want to copy the same training materials, you must bring your own USB.
5) For any inquiries, you may contact Ms. Kheyyan Pagaran or KC Laguardia at Telephone Nos. 988-4242 loc. 8732/8739

THE JOY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

by Janete Oviedo, OVM

The VM's Birthday Celebration



VM Joy Belmonte and OVM's Chief of Staff Rowena Macatao (first left) with dedicated partners and champions in women and LGBT rights

The Office of the Vice Mayor has been an active and effective arm of the national government in conceptualizing different projects, providing quality services, and giving solutions for each of their citizens. To be able to provide and make these projects possible, OVM partnered with different local sectors as well as private companies, organizations and

Mayor Belmonte held a fellowship night where all her partners were treated to a dinner and awarded with plaques of appreciation.

One hundred thirty seven partner organizations attended the event held at 55 Events Place, Scout Rallos. The vice mayor's special guest was her father, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. who was also recognized as one of the major

Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte's QC Women's Fair



Participant s enjoyed free fitness and wellness activities during the QC Women's Fair event sponsored by VM Joy Belmonte



Women employees wander through the QC Women's Fair - Hip N Chic area to look for affordable clothes and discounted items

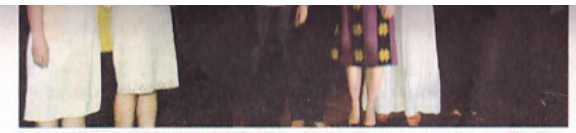
The Office of the Quezon City Vice Mayor annually conducts a special event exclusively to recognize and appreciate the women's contributions in different sectors of the city. This year different activities were free medical and legal consultations, bazaars, livelihood seminars and entertainment conducted simultaneously at various areas in Quezon City Hall March 10-11 to accommodate not just women from the communities but QC Hall employees as well.

With Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte and Mommy Mundo's shared advocacies of providing mom – oriented events, the celebration of the QC Women's Fair was a great venue to honor and acknowledge the participation of women in society.

The two-day event featured activities that would help promote Women's Empowerment among the different sectors, such as the elderly, the ' career woman, housewives, mothers, entrepreneurs and female youths. Three areas drew active participation among the women. These were the Bold and Driven area, which offered free talks on empowerment, entrepreneurship, make-up, power dressing and social media etiquette; the Fit and Fab area, which showcased fun and active fitness program such as a Zumba class, yoga, belly dancing tutorial and self-defense, and the Hip and Chic area that sold the city entrepreneurs' products.

Different styled scarves were given away as part of the tokens for the women who participated in the event. A Freedom Wall was also installed for women to write their sentiments, greetings, and gratitude.

"Bida sa QC ang Kababaihan" was the campaign tagline for this year's celebration with its own jingle which was used in the dance competition participated in by almost 3,000 women from QC.



VM Joy Belmonte and OVM's Chief of Staff Rowena Macatao (first left) with dedicated partners and champions in women and LGBT rights

The Office of the Vice Mayor has been an active and effective arm of the national government in conceptualizing different projects, providing quality services, and giving solutions for each of their citizens. To be able to provide and make these projects possible, OVM partnered with different local sectors as well as private companies, organizations and individuals. As a sign of gratitude and to celebrate her birthday, Vice Mayor Belmonte held a fellowship night where all her partners were treated to a dinner and awarded with plaques of appreciation.

One hundred thirty seven partner organizations attended the event held at 55 Events Place, Scout Rallos. The vice mayor's special guest was her father, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. who was also recognized as one of the major supports of OVM's programs.



VM Joy Belmonte with one of the "Joy of Public Service Award" recipients, a high school graduate who made exemplary achievements and served as model in promoting public service among youth.

THE JOY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Joy of Public Service Award is given by the Office of the Vice Mayor to recognize students who have aptly demonstrated the value of service above self. Each of this year's 146 awardees from public elementary and high schools received a medal and a gift certificate worth P3,000.



Women employees wander through the QC Women's Fair - Hip N Chic area to look for affordable clothes and discounted items

The Office of the Quezon City Vice Mayor annually conducts a special event exclusively to recognize and appreciate the women's contributions in different sectors of the city. This year different activities were free medical and legal consultations, bazaars, livelihood seminars and entertainment conducted simultaneously at various areas in Quezon City Hall March 8.

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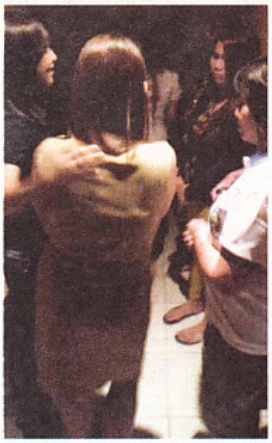
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Rescuing Minors in Bars



One of the employees who was rescued by VM Joy Belmonte during the surprise inspection of night entertainment establishments in Quezon City

As part of the OVM's campaign against violence and abuse of women and children, Vice Mayor Belmonte personally joined random inspections of bars and spas along Timog and Quezon Avenue conducted last May by the QC Women and Children's Desk, Social Services Development Department and QC Health Department. Aside from rescuing minors, the team noted violations that make female entertainers prone to sexual assault incidents and encourage prostitution.

Included in the team's report were identifying employees working without permits, and rooms with doors that can be locked from the inside and with no transparent windows, which is a clear violation of City Ordinance No. SP-1257 S-2003, which requires private rooms to have lockless doors and clear transparent windows. Further, the team observed that at least some of the female employees interviewed did not have any training in massage therapy, hilot-wellness, and the like, despite their being masseuses. They were also not appropriately dressed, most wearing see-through pajamas without panties and exposed brassieres. These are not considered the proper attire for massage therapists. Most indicative of possible acts of prostitution in this establishment was the abundant presence of used condoms inside the rooms' trash bins, which were gathered by the police officers as evidence. These violations were the basis of VM Belmonte's recommendation to close down certain night clubs and spas.

VM Belmonte said the city's night clubs and spas are allowed to operate, but these will be regularly monitored as the city government is determined to make sure that no minors are allowed to work and illegal practices are not encouraged in the establishments.