

QC Structures Checked For Safety

The head of the Quezon City Building Department said his office has routinely inspected the structures in the locality to ensure they will be able to withstand typhoons, earthquakes, and other similar calamities.

Engineer Isagani Versoza chief of the QCBD said there should be no cause for alarm as routine checks on the soundness of the city's buildings are undertaken year round.

"Even before typhoon Yolanda struck parts of Eastern Visayas and the magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Bohol and Cebu province last year the QCBD has done everything humanly possible to at least minimize possible damage on the city's structures," Versoza said.

He noted that routine building inspections with or without calamities are always considered special inspections.

"Mayor Herbert Bautista gave specific and strict instructions that regular inspections should be conducted to prevent severe damage and collapse of buildings during super-typhoons and tremors of high magnitude. Of course, we can only do so much since we cannot totally win in a fight against nature. We just have to follow what is in the National Building Code is strictly followed," Versoza added.

Versoza explained that damage on structures is allowed under the building code as long as the edifice does not collapse, citing the "behavior of earthquakes are unpredictable."

"Earthquakes are indeed unpredictable. It may last 30 seconds but may not be destructive or it may occur for only 15 seconds and leave extreme damage. It depends on the magnitude, intensity and if the shaking movement of the earthquake is horizontal or vertical," Versoza said. (Chito Chavez)

- Building Inspection

April 21, 2014

Councilors Want Water Refill Stations Checked

Several councilors asked the city government to dispatch teams that will conduct surprise inspection of water refilling stations in Quezon City to ensure the products are fit for human consumption.

As the demand for mineral and purified water rises this summer months, Third District Councilor Allan Benedict Reyes said he was disgusted with reports on water refilling stations selling unsafe and contaminated water to the public.

Reyes said his office had received complaints over the practice of unscrupulous groups who are passing off regular drinking water as purified, distilled or mineral water to the detriment of the consumers.

First District Councilor Victor Ferrer Jr. said his office also received complaints that some bottled water sold in the market are cloudy, have unpleasant smell and taste like soap.

In view of the complaints, Ferrer asked the city government and concerned government agencies to take the necessary measures to stop the illegal practice in the distilled and mineral water service distribution business.

Majority Floor Leader Jesus Manuel Suntay said personnel of the water refilling stations should be in uniform while the premises should always be clean to make it as hygienic as possible to ensure public safety.

He said he will also look into reports that many water refilling stations, to make huge profits, rarely change their filters putting public health at high risk.

To ensure that only safe drinking water is sold, Bautista said the crew and even the owners of the water refilling station should undergo regular seminars where business ethics should be emphasized.

He noted that some businessmen in the drinking water delivery business may be aware of the methods of keeping their product safe but deliberately violate the safety schemes to maximize profit and even put the public's health at risk. (Chito A. Chavez)

- Inspection
- water refilling
- stations

3,000 Quezon City buildings checked

A8 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2013

EVEN before a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Bohol, Cebu and parts of Mindanao, the Quezon City government has inspected about 3,000 buildings to ensure they remain standing.

Isagani Verzosa, city building official, said structures, particularly medium- and high-rise clustered in business districts are visited and subjected to a safety checklist with verification of clearances.

"Mayor Herbert Bautista gave us strict instructions that regular inspections must be conducted. We cannot fight nature, but we see to it that the National Building Code is strictly complied with," he told reporters.

"The occurrence of a quake is unpredictable. Sometimes, a quake could last 30 seconds, but may not be that destructive. There are times a quake could occur for only about 15 seconds,

but leave severe damages."

Verzosa said there is less chance for a high-intensity quake to cause widespread destruction in Quezon City which sits on solid hard rock, or adobe.

"Wet and loose soil is more vulnerable to tremor," he noted.

According to Verzosa, his office has hired more civil engineers and architects to do annual building safety inspection and do post-quake assessment.

He said the Department of Public Works and Highways has directed 15-year-old buildings and infrastructure to be evaluated by a structural engineer to determine structural integrity.

"Ideally, retrofitting must be undertaken on bridges and buildings to maintain their soundness and strengthen the structures," Verzosa said. **Rio N. Araja**

* QC - Building Inspection

Monday, October 28, 2013 **5**

QC Councilor Proposes Junk Shops' Inspection

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

After some road accidents were traced to the absence of traffic signs, a Quezon City councilor issued his call for strict random inspection of the city's junk shops to retrieve the detached government property and arrest guilty parties.

Former Liga ng mga Barangay head and now Second District Councilor Ranulfo Ludovica issued the call after receiving complaints of the rampant theft of streets signs usually made from steel and expensive plastic materials.

Ludovica stressed that the mere possession of the traffic, informative, warning signs and other

similar items is punishable under the law.

"It is clearly stated in the road signs that it is unlawful to remove and possess these items. I hope the public understands that they are installed for specific purposes," Ludovica said.

Motorists complained that the absence of road signs and sometimes with no traffic personnel on sight have worsened the traffic situation especially during rush hours.

Ludovica added that in the worse scenario, road accidents resulting to deaths and injuries occur when drivers go on one way streets or when they trek roads with dangerous curves at high speed.

He vowed to relentlessly pursue the guilty parties, adding that barangay officials who connive, tolerate and are in cahoots with criminals will be included in the charge sheets in the wake of huge losses of government fixtures to thieves and lawless elements of the society.

"Being a barangay captain for many years I have a soft spot for barangay personnel but it is a totally different issue if they connive with lawless elements in stealing government fixtures," Ludovica added.

He noted that government materials such as pink fences, railings, barriers, traffic signs, manhole covers and other similar fixtures have particular purposes to ensure public order and safety.

Informed of the rising number of lost traffic and informative signs, railings and traffic lights, Ludovica asked local the local police authorities to apprehend errant individuals adding that replacing the thousands of stolen government visual aids

and fixtures is costing the government millions of pesos yearly.

He appealed to junk shop owners to exercise their sense of patriotism by reporting fencers who are trying to sell the stolen government goods to police authorities.

* Junk shop Inspection

39 QC Dormitories Ordered Shut

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

In a continuous bid to ensure public safety, the Quezon City Building Department has recommended the closure of 39 dormitories in Barangay Krus na Ligas for failure to comply with the city's fire safety standards and building regulation.

Quezon City Building Official Isagani Verzosa said most of the occupants of the dormitories are students of the state-owned University of the Philippines (UP).

Aside from failing to comply with the fire safety requirements, Verzosa said that some dormitories were constructed without building permits making the structure unsafe for the occupants.

Amidst the howls of protests from the owners, Verzosa said that

they were left with no choice but to issue the recommendation adding that the protection of human lives is their outmost priority.

"Owners who wish to conduct repairs or improvements in their buildings should secure building permits. Since the nature of our current building laws is curative and not punitive in nature we can only recommend to the office of the mayor their closure or demolition," Verzosa said.

Bombarded by non-stop charges of corruption, Verzosa sought the public's assistance by reporting the corrupt ways of building inspectors or any of the personnel of the Building Official.

One of the owners of the dormitories who requested anonymity doubted the sincerity of the Building Official Department in conduct-

ing the surprise inspections saying that is just one of their "ploys to milk money from them."

"Pera pera lang yan (It is all just about money)," the building owner said.

He also questioned the timing of the inspection which he described as a form of harassment as some of them might give in to the "extortion" by errant employees from the city's Building Department.

In response, Verzosa maintained that the city government has given them notices a month before the recommended closure orders where handed out and given to the mayor's office.

He dared the building owners to name names if they were extortion victims of any of his men saying that their complaint will be treated with confidentiality.

* @c - building
* Dormitories inspections

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 **B2**

Closure of 39 QC dormitories sought

THE Quezon City Building Department has recommended the closure of 39 dormitories for failure to comply with the city's fire safety standards and building regulations, and for building the dormitories without permit.

Among violations are defective and inadequate units of fire alarm system, absence of portable fire extinguishers and automatic battery-operated emergency lights,

and absence of fixed ladder at the fire exit, said building official Isagani Versoza.

Versoza said the city government last month told the owners of the dormitories to comply with the building safety codes. They did not comply.

He also said most of the occupants of the 39 dormitories are students of UP Diliman. — **Angela Lopez de Leon**

* Q.C - building
* Closure of dormitories

ANGELA LOPEZ DE LEON
Name

Librarian in Charge
Position

April 23, 2013
Date

EMILITA A. VILLARUEYA
Name

CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICE HEAD
Position

April 23, 2013
Date

In Property Office Use

QC mayor orders inspection of all student dormitories, boarding houses

Quezon City Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista has ordered an inspection of all student dormitories and boarding houses to ensure that the owners are properly complying with safety building standards.

The city chief executive said he instructed city building official Isagani Verzosa Jr. and local fire marshal Senior Supt. Bobby Baruelo to oversee the inspection.

Top priorities for inspection are the multi-story buildings in Barangay K. na Ligas which are reportedly being used as dormitories and boarding houses by some students from the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus.

"The city acknowledges the university's need for dormitories, however, the local government only wants compliance with existing laws,"

Bautista said.

To date, the department of building official has partially inspected 34 buildings at the Krus na Ligas area, most of which are four- and three-story structures.

During the inspection, the city building officials noted that certain structures are operating without building permits and necessary safety and security features, such as fire alarms and emergency lights.

The inspection team from the department of building and fire department also noted that some structures had insufficient fire exits and vertical ladders and undersized stair wells.

"We will force the owners of these buildings to comply with safety standards set forth under the National Building

Code and the Fire Code of the Philippines," Verzosa said.

Among the structures covered by the inspection are the four-story building with seven rooms for rent on Baluyot Street, the four-story building with six rooms for rent on Eugenio Street, the four-story building with eight rooms for rent on Angeles Street Extension, the four-story building with 16 rooms for rent on P. Francisco corner Kabalitang streets, and the four-story building with three rooms for rent on Fernando Street.

Meanwhile, the department of building official has already completed the inspection of dormitories and boarding houses along Xavierville Avenue.

The inspection team noted compliance with all existing safety standards on the part of the owners. **Arle O. Calalo**

*boarding house,
dormitories inspection*

QC mobilizes task force for inspections on business establishments

By Arlie O. Calalo

The Quezon City government has launched a unified inter-department effort to implement a new business-friendly reform, Mayor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista said yesterday.

On orders from him, the city government, starting last April 10, mobilized the special assessment task force which will have authority to conduct inspections and assessments of the different business establishments operating in the city.

With the formation of the task force, the city government hopes to reduce the number of inspections that a business establishment will have to contend with to just one integrated inspection, he told reporters.



BAUTISTA

Bautista said the special body will also be mandated to constitute a composite team of inspectors that shall conduct a ground or actual inspection of all the taxpaying units in the city to determine and verify the factual bases of the taxes, fees and charges paid or collected by the local government.

To the business owners and building managers, it will

mean that it will be a composite team that will conduct a joint inspection of their establishments – for structural and fire safety compliance, sanitation and potability of drinking water, environmental compliance and

disclosure of locally taxable machineries and structures.

City Administrator Victor Endriga, who sits as task force chairman, said the city's newly-formed task force "will go after QC's biggest taxpayers."

According to Endriga, task force members will start going around the city this next week to serve notices to business establishment owners informing them of the various requirements they need to prepare.

The city government is giving owners at least one week to prepare the documents.

There will be three notices of assessment to be served to QC-based businessmen, the city administrator said.

"If there will be objections, complaints or cases of harassment filed against any task force member, rest assured the city government will immediately respond to these concerns," Endriga said.

QC Business establishments inspections

QC water refilling stations inspected

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Quezon City authorities will make surprise inspections on water refilling stations in the city to prevent the sale of contaminated water.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert

Bautista said there are unscrupulous groups passing off regular drinking water as purified, distilled or mineral water.

Bautista said that he has received complaints as well that some bottled water were either cloudy and have an unpleasant smell.

Bautista said the crew of the water refilling stations should wear uniforms while the premises must always be clean to make it as hygienic as possible.

He will also look into reports that many water refilling stations rarely change their filters in order to maximize profits.

"Maybe they are using the filter for more than a week? It is natural for the water for sale to have a foul smell," Bautista added.

To ensure that only safe drinking water is sold, Bautista said the crew and even the owners of water refilling stations should undergo regular seminars where business

ethics should be emphasized.

He noted that some businessmen in the drinking water delivery business may be aware of the methods of keeping their product safe but unfortunately lacks the character to sell only high quality products to the consumers just to maximize profit.

"How safe is the drinking water bought from the refilling stations? There is a lot of water refilling stations with poor sanitary measures. We have to act now," Bautista said.

JESSICA CASTILLO DAZA
City Councilor

QC to start inspecting weighing scales to protect Christmas buyers

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Quezon City government yesterday urged vendors to "shape up or ship out" as local authorities will conduct a daily inspection of weighing scales in several markets to protect consumers.

City Treasurer Edgar Villanueva said that a composite team from the city's Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD), Local Price Coordinating Council and his office will make the rounds of groceries, supermarkets, mini groceries, markets and other similar establishments beginning December 1 as sales are expected to start rising during the holidays.

"Kung ngayon tuwing Huwebes lang tayo nanghuhuli, sa unang araw po ng Disyembre magiging araw-araw na po ang ating operasyon laban sa mga mandarayang timbangan (at present we are conducting our operation every Thursday. Beginning December 1 inspections will be made daily against errant weighing scales), Villanueva said.

Some 51 unsealed and uncalibrated weighing scales were confiscated Thursday at Lagro and Es-Em markets in Zabarte Road by an enforcement team from the calibration and weights section of the Quezon City Treasurer's Office.

The Treasurer's Office asked the support of the MDAD and the Local Price Coordinating Council to ensure the success of the city government's campaign against fraudulent practices relative to weights and measures.

A total of 1,210 defective weighing scales were confiscated by the treasurer's office since the launching of the renewed campaign against unsealed and unregistered weighing equipment on orders of Mayor Herbert Bautista.

This year, the Treasurer's Office collected P848,399.57 in revenues from the imposition of regulatory fees and penalties for the use of instruments of weights and measures, said Arvin Gotladera, QC Special Assistant to the City Treasurer.

Gotladera claimed the amount is thrice the amount of collection posted in 2010, when the city collected P270,982.05.

Thursday, January 20, 2011

QC to close apartment-type clubs used for immoral acts

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Reacting to mounting public complaints, the Quezon City government said yesterday it will close down apartment-type clubs and joints, particularly those whose permits allow them to operate only as restaurants.

Mayor Herbert Bautista, disgusted with the increasing number of such nightspots, ordered the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) to take the necessary steps to allow the city government to enforce the closure order.

He directed BPLO chief Pacifico Maghacot to send teams including undercover city personnel to review

and monitor the activities inside the illegal nightclubs after reports revealed that these were being used as sex dens.

Bautista said the city grants permit for club businesses but under no circumstance should they be abused and used as prostitution dens or similar erroneous practices like trafficking of women and minors.

Based on the mayor's standard for a club business, the latter should have a size or area bigger than 100 square meters, or bigger than an apartment unit.

"We cannot afford to continue the practice of allowing a small space like an apartment to be declared a club because such size is only appropriate for an eatery. A club should

have an ample space for parking, big kitchen, and enough number of lavatory or comfort rooms for its clients," the mayor said.

Maghacot, for his part, said a strict review and inspection of club businesses is ongoing.

To date, Maghacot said his office had closed down a videoke bar for violation of city ordinance number SP-91, S-93, also known as the Quezon City Revenue Code of 1993, for operating without permit.

The closure order was served last Jan. 6 to Inday Videoke Bar located at 135 IBP Road Barangay Payatas A.

Maghacot said more closure orders will be served by his office by the end of the first quarter of the

year due to various complaints of non-compliance with the law such as operating without permit, no fire clearance, no health or sanitary permit and noise pollution particularly during night time.

"The closure order served to Inday Videoke and other establishments should serve as a warning to businessmen to abide by the law," Maghacot said.

Maghacot said his office is targeting the closure of two errant establishments per week.

"This is part of the program of Bautista's administration in ensuring public welfare particularly for a clean environment, and to minimize noise pollution especially at night time," Maghacot said.

Business Permit
QC Business Space requirement

QC to inspect shops selling water to ensure quality

Ma. B. 2/5/10 p. 5
By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

With the expected high demand for mineral and purified water this summer months, Quezon City authorities said that it would make surprise inspections on water refilling stations in the city to avert the sale of contaminated water to the public.

Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista expressed dismay over the practice of unscrupulous groups who are passing off regular drinking water as purified, distilled or mineral water to the detriment of the consumers.

Bautista said that he received complaints that some of the bottled water sold publicly are either cloudy or have unpleasant smell.

Bautista said that personnel of the water refilling stations should be in uniform while the premises should always be clean to make it as hygienic as possible to ensure public safety.

The Quezon City vice mayor said

he will also look into reports that a great number of water refilling stations in order to make huge profits rarely change their filters, putting public health at high risk.

To ensure that only safe drinking water are sold, Bautista said that the crew and even the owners of the water refilling station should undergo regular seminars where business ethics should be emphasized.

He noted that some businessmen in the drinking water delivery business may be aware of the methods of keeping their product safe but deliberately violate safety regulations to maximize profit while putting the public's health at risk.

QC BUSINESS INSPECTION

Monday, April 5, 2010

QC warns illegal water stations

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

Quezon City authorities have asked the public to report water refilling stations selling contaminated

water or passing off tap water as mineral or the purified variety to their clients.

Councilor Jorge "Bolet" Banal Jr. of the city's third district raised the alarm after receiving complaints that some clients protested the awful taste of the items which they presumed to be mineral or purified water.

In some cases, Banal said that the complaining customers said that water delivered which was suppose to be purified had a foul-smelling aroma raising suspicion that they were unfit for drinking.

"I have heard that some suffered diarrhea after drinking the dirty water which was labeled as purified or mineral water. In any case may I request the customers to immediately report such incidents to my office right after the delivery so that I can make the necessary representations to clamped down the spurious water refilling stations," Banal noted.

Banal said that in the name of fairness and due process the complaining customers have to immediately air their grievance as possible deterrent to unscrupulous groups from extorting money from legitimate businessmen.

He expressed no fear that running after the rogue water refilling station owners would jeopardize his bid for the House seat bid in the city's third district against incumbent Congressman Matias Defensor.

To avert the sale of contaminated drinking water, Banal said he will make arrangements for concerned local authorities to conduct surprise inspections of water refilling stations in the city.

With the high demand for mineral and purified water, Banal said he will institute measures to start the random inspections on water refilling stores or vendors openly selling bottled water with cloudy appearances and foul smell.

He will also ask Pacifico Maghacot chief of the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) to revoke the licenses of non-complying water refilling stations in the city.

"I understand that the personnel manning the water refilling station should be in uniform and the premises should always be clean and as hygienic as possible to ensure public safety. I would also like to find out if the water filters are changed regularly," Banal added.

To ensure that only safe drinking water are sold, Banal said that the crew and even the owners of the water refilling station should undergo regular seminars where business ethics should be emphasized.

He noted that some shrewd businessmen in the drinking water delivery business may be aware of the methods of keeping their product safe but deliberately violates the safety schemes to maximize profit and even it put the public's health at risk.

- business inspection
- illegal water stations

Saturday, September 6, 2008

QC makes changes in checking business firms' safety, stability

By RAUL V. GONZALES

The office of the Quezon City building official has initiated changes in the inspection of business establishments in the city in a bid to determine their structural safety and stability as contained in the Safe Building Inspection Program of the city ordered by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Under the Safety Inspection Program, Engr. Isagani Versoza Jr. the local building official of Quezon City, has set apart the two components of annual building inspection mandated under the National Building Code of the Philippines.

These are the safety determination and the compliance to documentary requirements.

Instead of only one carrying out inspections both for addressing public safety and compliance with documentary requirements, a new team was created to improve inspections for public safety.

Inspections being conducted by the newly-created team are centered on high-risk establishments.

These are establishments which are prone to changes and being public areas or places of assembly.

In this category are shopping malls, shopping markets, hotels/apartelles/boarding houses, diners/nightspots, gas stations, sports area and others.

Another team is focused on documentary requirements so as to speed up inspections for compliance to the requirements of the National Building Code.

Belmonte has provided the safety and inspection team with high-tech inspection tools for them to come up with more accurate evaluation in the implementation of the program.

To date, the team for the high-risk inspections has already inspected more than 300 establishments, including malls, lodging houses/condominiums, gasoline stations, commercial buildings and schools all over Quezon City.

The team has also subjected several funhouses in the conduct of the inspection.

The city building official has recommended that periodic inspection will be done regularly at least once a year for these establishments.

"We are instituting prioritization in our inspection program and started introducing cycles of inspection for every type of occupancy. This program is implemented

to maximize the capability of our inspection teams to prevent incidents that might result in the further loss of lives and damages to properties," Versoza said

- business establishment - inspection
- Building inspection

QC body to probe firms' violations

By SEL A. BAYSA

A joint fact-finding body in Quezon City will convene shortly to look into the violations of hotels, apartels, inns and other lodging establishments in the city.

Also, the city council's blue ribbon committee and a composite team made up of certain offices at the Quezon City Hall, will investigate the alleged illegal operation of these establishments particularly those offering "short time" to young couples.

Councilor Dante M. De Guzman, chairman, blue ribbon committee, said that the probe is an offshoot of the closure order slapped by the composite team led by lawyer Vicky Loamzon, chief, Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office (CTAO) on a hotel and an apartel.

The investigation, De Guzman said, is focused on certain hotels and apartels allegedly operating without first securing accreditation from CTAO.

Loamzon's composite team is composed of CTAO, Bureau of Fire, QC engineering office and the Business Permits and License Office (BPLO). Lawyer Dimaisip of the BPLO has been designated as the team's deputy chief.

De Guzman said that the team members are conducting rounds of these establishments to check on the probable violations.

Team members will also check whether these structures have met the standards set by the Quezon City government pertaining to health, safety, building and fire code.

At least two lodging areas on EDSA were recommended closed by the composite team for allegedly offering the "short time" rate.

Illegal Business Operations - Violation

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Business Inspection