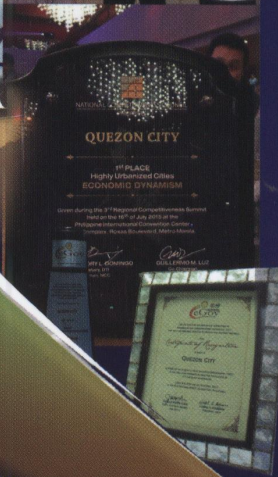


MAYOR HERBERT M BAUTISTA

# State of the City address 2015



# AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT UNDER THE BAUTISTA ADMINISTRATION

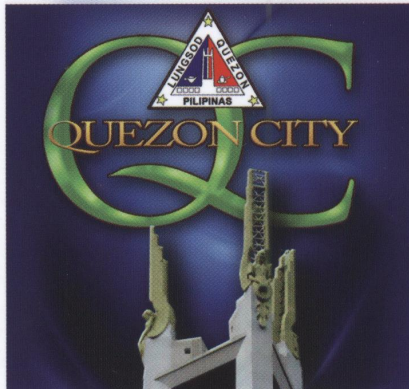


- 2015 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Awards at the Esri International User Conferences in San Diego, California, USA, for its Enhanced Tax Mapping System.
- No 1 Economically Most Dynamic City in the Highly Urbanized City Category, National Competitiveness Council, 2015
- 2015 Kapit -Bisig Awards as Outstanding Partner from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- 2014 Galing Pook Governance Award for Outstanding Local Government Program on Socialized Housing
- 2014 Galing Pook Governance Award for Outstanding Local Government Program on the Pioneering Health Clinic for STI/HIV, Klinika Bernardo
- 2014 Luminaries Award for Quezon City's carbon footprint reduction initiatives and its waste-to-energy biogas plant in Payatas, as among the best innovations in environment advocacy

- 2013 awards from the DILG and the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines:  
*3rd place for Government to Business Category (G2B) in the 2nd eGovernance Awards (2013) Jessie Robredo Awards for Excellence in ICT for Good Governance for its Point-of-Sale (POS) Tax Collection system*
- 2012 Certificate of recognition from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for sustained good performance in the implementation of Republic Act 9003 through segregation at source, deployment of dedicated units as well as the establishment and operationalization of Materials Recovery Facilities
- Quezon City was among the Top 10 performing Highly Urbanized Cities ranked nationwide on Local Governance Performance Management Systems (LGPMs) and awarded Seal of Disaster Preparedness, from the Department of Interior and Local Government, 2012
- 2011 National Best PESO Award, Highly Urbanized Category, for the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), from the Department of Labor and Employment



- 2014 Top Developer Award for Quezon City's socialized housing programs, from the Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG)
- 2014 awards from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines:  
*2nd place, 3rd eGov Awards for Customer Empowerment (G2C category) for QC's Computerized Health Information Tracking System (CHITS)*  
*2nd Place, 3rd eGov Awards for Business Empowerment (G2B category) QC's mobile money real property tax payment program*



**2015 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**  
of the **Honorable Quezon City Mayor Herbert M. Bautista**  
October 12, 2015, Carlos Albert Hall, Quezon City



It was my parents' dream that I become mayor. Daily, 24/7, for the past five years, I have lived that dream with all the difficulties, heartaches, problems but also inspirations, goodwill and blessings that come with the job. I come before you today, as I approach my sixth year in office and the end of my second term. I have been in government service for 29 years now, but let me tell you, the new lessons and experiences never end. *Ang pagsisilbi ay walang molde, walang isang sukat, parating may pagbabago – ang importante lamang ay dumadami ang mga buhay na pinabubuti at pinababago.*

*Nung unang taon ng aking pagiging alkalde ng Lungsod Quezon, tayong lahat ay nagulantang sa mga problemang dulot ng matitinding bagyo. Dito naging malinaw kung anu-ano ang dapat na prioridad ng aking administrasyon :*

- *dapat mailipat ang mga pamilyang nakatira sa mga lugar na mapanganib*
- *dapat magkaroon ng maayos, kumprehensibo at international standard na disaster-risk reduction at management program*
- *dapat matindi natin pangalagaan ang ating lungsod, kundi lahat tayo damay sa sakuna at kahirapan.*

*Ang isa pang katangi-tanging leksyon ay ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa. Tayong lahat ay Team Quezon City – kung tayo ay watak-watak at hindi iisa ang ating layunin, ang buong pamahalaan natin ang hihina. Kung tayo naman ang magtutulungan, napakalakas ng ating puwersa at gabay para sa pagbabago at pagbuti.*

*Sa mga susunod na mga araw, maraming maghahain ng sertipiko ng kanilang kandidatura. Lahat hihilingin ang inyong boto, lahat mangangako. Ako, hindi mangangako. Ang aking ilalathala ay ang mga natupad ko at ng ating administrasyon, at kung saan pa tayo tutungo sa susunod na tatlong taon.*

**What has this Administration achieved?**

It is generating hundreds of millions of pesos in new funds, simply by solving old problems, penalizing idle properties, putting city assets to work, and rationalizing some provisions in the Quezon City Revenue Code so that businesses are more equitably taxed.

We are freeing up millions in local government assets simply by solving problems that had evaded a solution for 33 years. It was rooted in a problem in 1982, when the Quezon City Government filed a collection case with Land Bank for Php 30 million placed in trust, but which the bank lent out and was not paid back by Ramawil properties. For more than three decades, no agreement was reached on the amount that could be collectible including interest, that would be advantageous to the city government.

In 2014, I directed a team to forge a solution from several fronts. City Administrator Aldrin Cuña led the tough negotiations with Land Bank, with support from Atty. Farley Sabillo and City Accountant Pamfilo Cruz. Secretary to the Mayor Tadeo Palma and the Housing Department led by Ramon Asprer handled the social preparations with the property's occupants who had been residing there for 30 years and were willing to pay for their properties. On May 29, 2015, a compromise agreement was officially signed by the city government and Landbank, by virtue of City Council Resolution No. SP-6188, series of 2014. Last September 29, 2015, Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Aurora Hernandez-Calledo approved this compromise agreement, which obligates the bank to return to the City government, the Php 30 million placed in trust plus Php 142.8 million in interest. With this landmark solution, the city

**2015 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS OF QUEZON CITY MAYOR HERBERT M BAUTISTA**

government now has Php 172.8 million in fresh money for our development projects.

We have demanded that idle assets be put to work, whether from the private sector or the local government. From the private sector, we required that they pay an idle land tax if they allow their properties to remain unproductive and vulnerable to blight. From 2013 to September 2015, the idle land tax has added Php 253 million to our total revenues, which goes into our socialized housing fund.

From the local government, we have begun processing property assets that had been forfeited in favor of the city government from as far back as 13 years ago. Our city government had been sitting for years on a potentially Php 2.8 billion worth of property assets as a result of auction. They were just there, processes uncompleted and therefore these billions remained idle, unperforming for the city.

I directed the organization of a Real Property Assessment Team focused on processing and completing the transfer of titles of useful assets and gave them a tight deadline. By next year, we should have completed the transfer of titles of socially and economically useful parcels that will enable us to provide new properties for school buildings, and new properties for development projects that can project more entrepreneurship opportunities and employment. Through the completion of the transfer of titles, we shall be able to provide an asset base for our new corporation, the Quezon City Development Authority, with millions worth of properties, without subtracting from our revenues and without diminishing our present asset base.

Our efforts to plug holes in collection gaps led us to wage a determined campaign on two fronts: One was to go after tax delinquents and enable them to settle with an incentive of paying for 5 years to be reinstated as up-to-date

taxpayers; or otherwise, feel the consequence of auction. More than 8,600 real property taxpayers in Quezon City availed themselves of the local government's tax relief incentive, and removed their status from the delinquency list. This drive added Php 140.77 million to our coffers and updated real property tax records.

Second, we sought to correct the fact that some businesses were making money in Quezon City that were not being taxed under the revenue code, like the MRT stations for example. This necessitated an amendment in the revenue ordinance; we also pushed for a formal agreement with MRT-7 proponents to clearly provide for the taxability of their stations by the city government. This agreement is a first for a Philippine local government.

We have been making it as easy as possible for people to settle their city taxes and transact with the city government. Our real property taxpayers can settle their tax dues even without leaving their homes or places of work. They just need their cellphone and a Gcash wallet. New business owners can register their corporations here using their computers and clicking on our QC eServices portal in the Quezon City website. We are working with our government depository bank to use their electronic banking channel to enable our taxpayers to pay their city taxes online as well.

All these initiatives are helping us achieve a steady rise in revenue collections. Our gross revenue collections have reached Php 14.59 billion for the first 9 months of 2015, higher by almost Php 2 billion than our same period 2014 accomplishment. Our 9-month total already capably covers our 2015 budget target of Php 14.46 billion.

**What else has this Administration achieved?**

We have managed to expand exponentially the resource base for the city's development needs by letting national government resources work for us as

well. Our partnership with the National Housing Authority has enabled us to expand our housing stock by 21,707 dwelling units in NHA Resettlement Sites in Bulacan and Rodriguez, Rizal.

Our partnership with the Road Board on the streetlighting program has expanded our capacity to install more low-carbon LED lights along the city's thoroughfares by 1,795 lamp posts, particularly those along major roads, enabling us to focus on other city streets.

Our active collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metro Manila Development Authority has led to more focused NG-LG interconnections that enable the national government to build on city projects and vice versa, particularly in clearing more road right of ways of obstructions, creating more connections to city roads, and expanding the capability of the city's flood control programs.

**What more have we done under my leadership?**

We have assured sustainability for our highly capitalized socialized housing program. We did not simply say we will help the homeless and build only a few token shelters. We have made housing our mission, even if at times those who are beneficiaries slam us for working to make more lives better. All of us know how expensive it is to construct a house, and if you multiply that with the thousands of families who are homeless in the city, the expense easily runs to the billions. To assure a balanced budget for the rest of our development needs, which are many, we created a dedicated housing fund.

I took the political risk of imposing new taxes, both the idle land tax and the socialized housing tax. We were charged in court on the grounds of constitutionality. Fortunately, our legal basis was sustained by the Supreme Court which ultimately ruled in our favor.

We have raised a housing fund of Php 785 million, generated from collections of the Socialized Housing Tax and the Idle Land Tax since 2011. It is replenished continuously through our payback mechanisms devised by our Housing team led by Secretary to the Mayor Tadeo Palma and Ramon Asprer, in coordination with the Pag-Ibig Fund and the Social Housing Finance Corporation. Our collections from socialized housing projects, both thru payments from direct sale projects and Bistekville loan takeouts total Php 390.58 million as of September 2015, and these replenish our dedicated account to support continuous housing construction and property acquisition.

We willingly took on the challenge of the K to 12 program, even as the pressure was most intense in Quezon City because we have the largest school age population. We have 36,732 public school students entering Grade 11, not to mention the number of kids entering public kindergarten. To accommodate all of them, the Division of City Schools reports that we need as many as 811 additional classrooms. No other city in the Philippines has a problem of this magnitude.

Again, we worked on this challenge through several fronts. I organized a multi-stakeholder technical working group, not only to discern problems but to recommend solutions to infrastructure needs, teacher capacities and training needs, parents' understanding of the program and the crafting of a value-adding vocational track that could build a good future for high school graduates. Our top public school educators crafted a road map to manage the transition, through our QC SEED program or Sustainable Education Enhancement and Development Program.

We have been busy constructing new schools, which altogether will provide 117 new classrooms with one more to be constructed this year.



Even if we had the funds to build more classrooms, we lacked properties. This is where cooperation with NHA came in, since NHA is one of the city's biggest land owners and also the one with most idle properties. This is also where the study of forfeited properties became useful as it identifies properties usable as school sites.

The classroom needs are also being addressed by partnerships with private schools that have the space to accommodate our public school students, and provide recompense through a voucher system. We have targeted 21,037 students to be accommodated by these schools. We have organized School Fairs in all 6 Districts so that our students and teachers will gain a better familiarity of their counterparts.

We are also demanding forward-looking vision in crafting the vocational track. Let us not be limited to producing artisans and laborers, when the world has become so filled with innovation and fast-changing technology that it is creating so many new high-value careers even for those without college degrees. Korphil trained teachers on an animation curriculum, and 100% of them passed. Congratulations to our teachers!

Last August 2015, we signed an agreement with Magna Anima Education System, a subsidiary of ABS-CBN, for the development of special programs for senior high school students in visual, design and performing arts, media arts, sports and maritime studies. We are showing that there are modern and creative definitions for techvoc courses. *Sa techvoc, malaganap na ang hinaharap!*

Our other difficult challenges are climate change and disaster risk reduction. We have embraced advocacies for environment management fully, *kahit nuong di pa ito uso. Nuong una, napakadaming batikos, napaka-tindi ng reklamo. Madaming mga nagwalang bahala. Pero ngayon, pati ang Santo Papa, pinairal*

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*sa atin na napaka importante na pangalagaan natin ang ating kalikasan at kapaligiran.* Caring for the environment is no longer an option. It has become a survival issue for this and the next generations.

Our architects and contractors are now learning that green building requirements are not simply city impositions, they are there to enable building occupants to save energy, reduce the burden on utilities, and contribute to cleaner air for everyone else.

It is during my term that we disciplined households to segregate their trash and educated consumers to prefer recyclable bags to reduce plastics clogging sewers. We also showed very vividly that environmental compliance can generate its own funds: one is through the Green Fund for environmental projects, which is generated by private consumers from the use of plastic bags. It has now reached Php 81.3 million. Another is the Php 2 million annually generated from selling electricity from methane gas to the Meralco grid. Environmental compliance does create new fund sources, while promoting good citizenship practices.

**What more have we accomplished?**

We have enabled more of the world to know Quezon City as a highly performing city with successful lessons and experiences to share with cities in other parts of the world. Recently, I have had to turn down an insistent invitation from the US Government and the Bloomberg Foundation to be part of a select group of mayors from various parts of the world who are recognized climate change leaders. This was supposed to have been last October 8 in Washington DC, and this was to be the first ever climate learning exchange program among mayors, for city sustainability. But I chose to be with all of you today. However, it feels good to know that global experts are looking at Quezon City as the teacher of best practices and a pioneering city.

This year, we became the first Philippine city to be invited as member of the Cities 40 Climate Leadership Group to its global network of 78 cities representing more than 500 million people and generating one-fourth of the world's economy. I had a chance to meet with the C40 technical group at their headquarters in New York City where I discussed our city's initiatives and how they could help us move our advocacies further forward.

We are a regular member of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, highly involved with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and a regular invitee and sharer of best practices in cities summits, whether these are in the US, Canada, China, Europe or Asia. Always, we are asked to share the lessons that have worked well with us, so that people from other parts of the world would benefit from it as well. We must be doing some things right!

We work with the World Bank on our social programs, including a longer-term shelter development thrust. We are as open to global assistance and learning, as we are in sharing with the rest of the world what works for us that could work for many others as well.

Moreover, Quezon City has been chosen as the Philippine partner of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or UN Women, to pilot-host the implementation of the agency's flagship program which calls for stronger actions on the prevention of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and children in public spaces. To formalize this partnership, the United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka visited Quezon City Hall last September. It is fortunate that the city's efforts at promoting women advocacies have been recognized by the United Nations.

**What more has happened these past years, under our stewardship of Quezon City?**

Let us talk numbers, which actually represents lives made better.

- 15,249 QC families living in high-risk areas have now been saved from danger and a life of blight: 8,402 of them have been moved out of waterways and another 6,847 have been transferred from right of ways and other danger areas, into proper housing communities. *Hindi na araw-araw natatakot sila sa panganib.*
- 1,031 are now owners of their Bistekville housing units, having completed their loan takeout process. Under construction and nearing completion are housing units for another 4,703 beneficiaries. We have now expanded our Bistekville projects to 20 housing communities, with 8 more in the process of negotiation. These demonstrate our firm resolve to work hard to provide in-city resettlement for our homeless poor as much as possible, and their locations are very ideal. One of these subdivisions even has its own market and multi-purpose center.
- 11,443 families organized into 259 homeowners associations have been assisted by the city government to facilitate community ownership of their properties through the community mortgage program; while 5,711 more families have been assisted to buy 22 properties which they occupy, under the direct sale program.
- All in all, about 33,434 families have been uplifted from a life of squalor into a more humane and decent community life.
- 298,460 poor entrepreneurs now have their own businesses, mobilized by Php 3.8 billion worth of collateral-free loans, growing from 93,745 borrowers

in 2010. The entrepreneurs have had easy access to financing which the city government mobilized from its seven partner micro-financing institutions.

The Sikap Buhay Entrepreneurship program has been our safety net for sustainability, from the scavengers in Payatas who are now trained microentrepreneurs, to the beneficiaries of our socialized housing program who are introduced to income-generating skills so that they can pay their housing amortizations. Also training for entrepreneurship and employment is the Social Services Development Department which organizes different types of livelihood skills-building programs which benefits 56,000 people a year.

- 93,745 job seekers have found employment through PESO coordinated job fairs;
- 435,965 students from high school and elementary are being capably supported by our public school system, a number that grows every year, and they are capably nurtured and stimulated for intellectual growth by our 12,809 public school teachers and the principals and Division officials, many of whom are here with us this afternoon.
- 57,879 scholars have been supported to complete their college education thru the city's Scholarship and Youth Development program since 2010.
- 23,615 toddlers were cared for, fed and guided by our daycare instructors last school year, a number that is nurtured annually. Of these kids, 12,331 have graduated to become kindergarten pupils under our DepEd, marking their first step towards K to12.

- 50,000 indigent families are now covered by our PhilHealth para sa Masa program.
- 179 patients have been operated on successfully by our much upgraded Quezon City General Hospital, which is now able to do cataract surgery, thyroidectomy, and herniography.
- 4,013 poor children and adults are now properly documented individuals through the Civil Registry's Operation Birth Right in 2014.
- More than 45 hectares of blight are now being transformed into lucrative places of businesses and productivity, and good places to live in. They are spreading the fruits of development to their surrounding areas as well.
- 2.261 million square meters of structures have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions, as a result of mandatory compliance with the Green Building Ordinance.
- 2,584 permits given to new construction from 2014 to 2015 have been generating 58,201 in direct labor and will be creating a multiplier effect on the local economy by Php 424 billion as a result of higher real estate values, more jobs created by the locators in these buildings and increased income from commercial activities.
- 160,515 square kilometers of streets are now brightly illumined with 6,248 LED streetlights of which 4,453 were installed by our city government. Our streetlight conversion to LED bulbs will, altogether, reduce our city government's electricity bill by Php 1.71 million per month.

- 26 kilometers of retaining wall, riprap and other flood control structures have been newly constructed or repaired to improve and reinforce embankments in our 6 districts over the past 5 years to address the issue of flooding and erosion of embankments. I have also directed our City Engineering Office to transform areas beside embankments into roads, wherever possible, so that these areas will always be free of illegal settlements.

We have negotiated, as well, an agreement with the DPWH to come with a definitive solution to flooding at Apolonio Samson and surrounding areas up to Araneta Avenue and Damar Village, by developing a 2-hectare retardation pond that will be 5-meters deep. What is good is that DPWH will finance the Php 700 million project, and it will be the first of its kind in Metro Manila.

#### **How have we fared against the Millennium Development Goals?**

Our city's progress towards attaining the MDGs help build the capacity of our constituents to partake of inclusive growth. We must address not only the economic well-being of the very poor, we must also address basic quality of life concerns of survival, health, education and general well-being. How are the welfare of our people, especially our children, improving, based on the report of the Quezon City Council for the Protection of Children?

- Our goal on poverty reduction was met, with households earning less than the poverty threshold reduced from 7.1% in 1990 to 3.64% in 2014;
- Our goal to reduce malnutrition was met, with the proportion of severely and moderately underweight children under 5 years old reduced, from 7.9% in 1990 to 2.6% in year 2000, to 2.17% in 2014. Decreases in the proportion of underweight children were also noted at the elementary and high school levels.

- Our goal to ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling was not met, which means our educators should work harder. We have managed to have a completion rate at the elementary level of 78.82%, but this is still below the 2016 target of 82%. For high school, the completion rate is 100.06%, which is better news.

Some of the programs that have helped keep more of our young people in school were: our Php 3,000 financial assistance to street children so that they will have the transportation and food money to stay in school, and the expansion of our public library, which recently has partnered with the Department of Science and Technology's STARBOOKS, or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station, which is the first digital science library in the Philippines that can run without internet connection. This gives poor children access to the latest information on science and technology for free.

- I am glad that we have significantly increased our Enrollment Participation Rate for 5 year olds to 99.8%, far surpassing the 2016 target of 75%. This means that more poor families are appreciating the start of formal education for their children at the right age. The numbers are also positive for enrollment rates for elementary and high school.
- Our goal to reduce infant and child mortality achieved better than the national target. To further reduce the mortality rate of 10 per 1,000 child births, we have operationalized our Human Milk Bank at the Quezon City General Hospital where poor mothers who are milk-deprived can secure breast milk for their babies.



Seven lying-in clinics serve as milk depots where nursing mothers can go. From March to June 2015, the QCGH has collection 10,229 milli-liters of breast milk, of which 2,300 milliliters have helped pre-term infants at three hospitals. We also have a breastfeeding station within the city hall compound as part of the city's campaign to promote breastfeeding among mothers and even in workplaces. We have been encouraging all establishments in the city, including malls, to provide breastfeeding stations for employees and their clients or visitors.

In partnership with the private sector, we have also started a project to offer a free immunization package for babies from 0 to 15 months, to strengthen them against a wide range of common illnesses. After giving birth, the mothers are given gift certificates which remind them that their babies are entitled to free vaccines which are a must for their children, and can be easily obtained free from our health centers.

- For our goal on reducing maternal mortality, we have to work more strategically to save more mothers from dying due to child birth. Although the indicators have gone down, from 89.26 to 77.53 per 100,000 live births, we are still far from the 2016 target of 42 per 100,000 live births.

This is continuing a challenge for our city health officials, who have instituted several programs to regulate home births, promote professionally assisted child birth, provide free tetanus toxoid vaccines and iron tablets, as well as increase the information and education campaign to convince pregnant women of the necessity of pre-natal checkups.

- For our goal on ensuring environmental sustainability, we have achieved significant improvements, far surpassing national MDG targets. The proportion of Quezon City households with access to safe water rose from

86% in year 2000, to 98% in 2014. The proportion of QC households with sanitary toilets increased from 87% in year 2000 to 99% in 2014.

### **Conclusion**

Governance is always a work in progress. It is never a monopoly of one person or one set of people. The achievements for the city are collective achievements. They are a manifestation of how well we work together, from the neighborhood associations to the barangays to the district offices to the City Council and the City executives.

When I say “we,” it is always Team Quezon City. That is why we are working at achieving greater efficiency in governance in many levels. For our Revenue Cluster, we are now making use of the integrated eFinancial systems which promote connectivity among the Budget, Treasury, Accounting, General Services and the IT departments.

We are completing the requirements for the Development of a Quality Management System certifiable to ISO 9001:2008 for the Economic Cluster, which will provide consistency and predictability in how operating units perform their services. The Department of Public Order and Safety, Novaliches District and Quezon City General Hospitals and selected governance and administration cluster departments shall be enrolled for ISO Certification in 2016.

As a first among local governments in the Philippines, we institutionalized measures and standards of good governance for our 142 barangays by adopting the Barangay Seal of Good Housekeeping. Our first set of awardees were recently feted at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on what is now set as the Barangay Day in Quezon City, which is September 21, the date when all barrios in the Philippines became barangays. Congratulations to the winners.

We have also insisted on the importance of having Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children, because these are critical interventions for the care and safety of our children. I am happy to note that 139 barangays have functioning BCPCs, where 42 have been categorized as ideal in operations.

I thank the Vice Mayor and the members of the City Council for the active support and complementation that all of you have shown all these years. Let me add to Winston Churchill who said, "If we are together, nothing is impossible. If we are divided all will fail." If we pull each other down, we break our dreams and visions into parts that will take longer to put together. I thank the City executives for listening to and even critiquing me, so that we can push ourselves to perform better each year.

I also thank our Speaker, Feliciano Belmonte Jr., our congressmen from all five other districts, and our national government agencies. We are all leaders of our respective political and institutional areas, and what has enabled each of us to expand our services to our people is our ability to collaborate, to create workable complementations to achieve a much greater good for Quezon City.

I am grateful for the support and cooperation of our Police District, our Bureau of Fire Protection, the DILG, NHA and all other national agencies, which have all augmented and enhanced our services to our people.

We have visions and plans to complete, game-changers that will put Quezon City high in the map of highly attractive cities, while solving many of our problems. I am referring to our waste to energy project where experts have assured us of truly clean energy emanating from the soggiest of our trash – zero pollution, gasified trash and new energy supply for Quezon City. I am talking about our solution to the metro's much lambasted traffic problem, by developing a monorail system to connect critical inter-city destinations. I also refer to our determination to shift to alternative energy sources for our public

institutions, especially solar energy for our public school buildings and offices. These are big dreams, but the foundations for technical studies have been put in place. We have also demonstrated that, for Team Quezon City, big dreams are achievable dreams!

In a few days, we, your elected officials, will be filing our respective certificates of candidacy. Remember, there are differences between promises and achievements. There are differences between wishers and naysayers and doers.

I am proud of our achievements. *At napakadami pa nating nakahandang gagawin.*

*Mga kababayan, mga kasama sa pamumunuan at paglilingkod, mga kabarangay:*

*Mula sa aking mga magulang, sa aking mga kapatid, sa aking mga anak at ang aming buong pamilya, kami ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa patuloy na pagtitiwala na iginawad ninyo na mapaglingkuran ko kayo sa loob ng tatlong dekada dito sa Quezon City.*

*Sa tulong ng Maykapal, nawa'y mapahintulutan ninyo pa po ako na patuloy na manungkulan sa ating mahal na Lungsod.*

*Sana po ay pagpalain po tayong lahat ng Maykapal, at biyayaan tayo ng linaw at inspirasyon.*

*Marami pong salamat sa inyong lahat!*

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