

Sun., October 29, 2006

USAID donates anti-smoke belching materials to QC

The Quezon City government is the recipient of anti-smoke belching tools from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Energy and Clean Air Project (ECAP).

Consisting of traffic cones, masks, vests, caps and T-shirts, the donation forms part of the USAID's continuing technical assistance to the QC government to boost its effort to sustain and strengthen its roadside inspection drive against smoke-emitting vehicles.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. received the donation from ECAP's deputy chief Arlene Donaire at a simple turnover rites at the QC Hall last Oct. 9 which he said is one of the activities lined up for the celebration of the city's 67th founding anniversary held last Oct. 12.

Donaire expressed hope that

the donation will help clean air in QC to be more vigilant in pursuing roadside inspection operations in the effort of improving the compliance of public utility vehicles (PUVs) to the motor vehicle emission standards provided under Republic Act 8749, otherwise known as the Clean Air Act of 1999.

Also, the agency is intending to donate a brand-new diesel smoke meter and communications equipment to the city's anti-smoke belching unit during the observance of the Clean Air Month next month (November).

Belmonte has initiated an anti-smoke belching campaign since his election in 2001 in an effort to make Quezon City a pollution free area.

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) cited the QC government anti-smoke belching units as LTO law enforcement group for 2005. (Sel A. Baysa/Raul Gonzales)

QC steps up smoking ban

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

The Quezon City (QC) government yesterday stepped up its no-smoking campaign to include local city officials, city hall employees, contractual workers, the public transacting business in the city hall and visitors. They will be strictly barred from smoking inside non-designated smoking areas of the city hall premises.

City hall authorities earlier designated a section in the football field beside the city hall high-rise building as the designated smoking area.

Tadeo Palma, Secretary to Mayor

Herbert Bautista, said the no-smoking campaign will apply to all, citing that even top city hall officials will be penalized accordingly for the violation. He said the violators will face stiff penalties as provided for in Civil Service Commission (CSC) Circular Number 17 S 2009.

"Patatas patas ang labanan sa no-smoking law dito opisyal man o casual employee (The no-smoking law will be enforced fairly on city hall officials and casual workers)," Palma added.

The move is part of the city's preparation for the massive anti-smoking campaign in the city, said Palma.

QC - Anti-Smoking campaign

Manila Bulletin
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DoH bats for ordinances on tobacco regulation

The Department of Health (DoH) yesterday urged local government units (LGUs) to pass ordinances that will enhance the implementation of Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the nationwide campaign against smoking in public places has been successful so far due to local ordinances crafted by cities and towns.

As the main implementing agency of the Tobacco Regulation Act or Republic Act 9211, Duque also asked LGUs to craft an ordinance that will boost the enforcement of the ban on outdoor cigarette advertisements.

Section 22 of RA 9211 stipulates that since July 1, 2007, all cinema and outdoor advertising on cigarettes is prohibited. No leaflets, posters, and similar outdoor advertising materials shall be posted, except inside the premises of point-of-sale retail establishments.

"Ordinances are cheap but (are) effective," he said.

The department earlier admitted the rampant violations of outdoor smoking ads in Metro Manila and provinces in North Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Authorities said the ban took effect on July 1, 2007 but outdoor billboards and signboards of tobacco products continue to sprout everywhere.

The Framework Convention Alliance on Philippines (FCAP), an

anti-smoking advocate that monitor retail establishments that violate RA 9211, has asked mayors to be vigilant in implementing RA 9211 and immediately report to the DoH or FCAP those who violate the law.

Dr. Maricar Limpin, FCAP spokesperson, said Davao City, under the mayorship of Rodrigo Duterte, has been rigid in implementing the ban on outdoor smoking ads.

Limpin said while most violations in Metro Manila were noted in the cities of Makati and Quezon City, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim have recently pledged its support in enforcing the outdoor ad ban.

The FCAP said it will continue to monitor the ban on outdoor advertising and maintain their pursuit of identifying tobacco firms that violate RA 9211. It also advised the public to report to www.tobaccocontrol.ph stores that have outdoor signages or mini billboards.

The group has submitted before the DoH a book of pictures that identify retail and grocery stores that violate the ban. The book also identified cigarette companies that violated the prohibition since it was implemented last year.

Philippine health authorities have also intensified the government's anti-tobacco campaign by mounting posters in public places that graphically show the health hazards of smoking. (PNA)

Anti-smoking campaign

Thurs., Nov. 29, 2001

QC dad seeks ban on tobacco ads

About 3.5 million people die each year from tobacco use. If current trends continue, this figure will rise to about 3 million per year by the early 2030s.

To safeguard public health and ensure the well-being of its constituents, the QC councilor is now deliberating on the ordinance prohibiting all forms of cigarette advertisements within the city.

Councilor Dante de Guzman, author of the ordinance, said the ordinance seeks to secure and protect the right of the inhabitants in the city to a cigarette and tobacco smoke-free environment by banning cigarette ads.

De Guzman said smoking accounts for the 4 million deaths per year worldwide and 20,000 deaths in the Philippines or 2 Filipinos (smoker or non-smoker) are dying every hour due to smoking as per medical report of the Department of Health (DoH) which is quite alarming.

In smoking, even non-smokers are not spared in the risk of dying from cancer and other smoking-related diseases.

Thus, the young legislator has initiated a concrete move to curb smoking in accordance to Section 458 of the Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, which explicitly provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod, as the legislative of the city, has the power to enact ordinances for the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants by adopting measures to protect its constituents from the harmful effects of man-made or natural disasters and calamities.

He said: "People are currently exposed to cigarette ads through tri-media and promotional activities and shall be protected from being initiated to cigarette smoking and tobacco use through stringent regulation of the promotion and advertising of cigarette and any other tobacco product."

If approved, promotion and advertisement of cigarette in any medium will be strictly prohibited. Any violator of the said ordinance shall be penalized by a fine of P5,000 and revocation of business permit or an imprisonment of one month or both at the discretion of the court.

anti-smoking campaign