



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 29
Series of 2020

**AN ORDER RECOGNIZING ESTABLISHMENTS PROVIDING CREDIT
SERVICES AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING THE ECQ**

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2020, the City Council declared Quezon City to be under a state of calamity due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on 16 March 2020, to combat the pandemic, the President declared an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) over the entire island of Luzon. Among others, the ECQ mandated social distancing, prohibited mass gatherings, closed down all but essential businesses, and suspended public transportation;

WHEREAS, the ECQ mandates the closure of all private establishments and offices except those providing essential services such as banks, and other Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) supervised financial institutions;

WHEREAS, Section 4(n) of Republic Act No. 11469, or the *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*, states that the Government shall ensure the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the economy;

WHEREAS, Section 4(g) of the *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act* allows local governments to exercise their autonomy in matters undefined by the National Government or are within the parameters set;

WHEREAS, it is the City's duty to ensure the availability of credit to its people, especially to the marginalized in great need of such services during the ECQ, and at the same time, to enforce measures to prevent the further spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the *Local Government Code*, the City has the power to do all things necessary, appropriate, or incidental to govern efficiently and effectively, promote the general welfare, promote health and safety, maintain peace and order, preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, under Section 455(b)(1)(vii) of the *Local Government Code*, the Mayor may carry out such emergency measures as may be necessary during times of calamity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE, *City Mayor* of Quezon City, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do order:

SECTION 1. Under this Order, Credit Establishments shall mean establishments providing microfinancing, loans, or other forms of credit to persons, wherein the provision of such microfinancing, loans, or other forms of credit are duly regulated or authorized by governmental authority. These shall include:

- a. BSP Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs) such as banks, non-stock savings and loan associations, money exchange companies/remittance and transfer companies, electronic money-issuers, payment system operators, and pawnshops;
- b. Financial service cooperatives, credit cooperatives, and multipurpose cooperatives that provide savings and credit to their members, regulated by the Cooperative Development Authority; and
- c. Other establishments, duly regulated by governmental authority, providing microfinancing, loans, or other forms of credit to unemployed or low-income individuals who otherwise would have no other access to such financial services.

SECTION 2. Credit Establishments shall be allowed to operate within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City during the ECQ, provided that only a skeletal workforce shall be deployed or implemented by such establishments.

SECTION 3. Officers and employees of the Credit Establishments comprising their skeletal workforce shall be exempted from the strict implementation of the ECQ, provided that such exemption shall be limited to travel to and from the Credit Establishment, and directly related to the operations of the Credit Establishment.

SECTION 4. The concerned officers and employees are enjoined to follow the strict rules on social distancing, mass gatherings, the wearing of face masks, and to observe proper hygiene. They shall always carry their valid ID duly issued by their Credit Establishment for validation by any public official and/or law enforcer.

SECTION 5. Any person, entity, or establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this Order shall be meted sanctions, including but not limited to, closure, suspension, or revocation of its permit or license, and the filing of criminal charges under Republic Act No. 11332, or any other applicable law or ordinance.

SECTION 6. The City's Department of Public Order and Safety, Business Permits and Licensing Department, Small Business Cooperatives Development Promotions Office, Barangay and other authorized City officials, together with the Quezon City Police District, shall enforce the provisions of this Order.

All circulars, issuances, orders, or directives inconsistent with this Order are hereby rescinded or repealed accordingly.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, 23 April 2020, Quezon City.


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor