



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 40**  
*Series of 2020*

**ENJOINING THE OFFICES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT TO DONATE  
THE AMOUNT INTENDED FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY TO THE  
UNDERPRIVILEGED**

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus as a global pandemic due to the breadth of its geographic spread;

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2020, the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* adopted Resolution No. SP-8141, series of 2020, declaring a state of calamity in Quezon City due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, starting on 17 March 2020, the national government imposed community quarantine over Luzon, and eventually over virtually the entire Philippines;

WHEREAS, the community quarantine restricts commerce, public transportation and mass gatherings, leading to unprecedented economic damage. The Philippine economy shrank 16.5% in the second quarter of this year, the deepest contraction on record.<sup>1</sup> According to the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the unemployment rate has roughly doubled to 11%<sup>2</sup>, and may remain as high as 8% in the next year. In Metro Manila, almost a million workers are jobless;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, considering the hardships that many of our fellow citizens are enduring, it would be unseemly for the City Government's offices and departments to indulge in the customary office Christmas parties during the holiday season;

WHEREAS, the money that would have been spent on office Christmas parties would do more good as donations to the underprivileged during this extraordinarily difficult time in our nation's history.

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. Non-holding of Office Christmas Parties.** For the holiday season, namely November and December 2020, the offices and departments of

<sup>1</sup><https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-08-06/philippine-economy-plunges-into-recession-as-gdp-contracts-16-5>.

<sup>2</sup><https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1333726/neda-projects-ph-unemployment-rate-of-up-to-8-percent-in-2021>.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cnnphilippines.com/business/2020/9/3/PSA-July-unemployment-figures.html>.

the Quezon City Government are hereby enjoined to refrain from office Christmas parties or similar celebrations. Instead, City Government employees are encouraged to modestly celebrate the season in their homes, in the company of their families and loved ones.


**SECTION 2. Adoption of Underprivileged Sector.** Each City Government office and department is encouraged to adopt an underprivileged sector this Christmas, such as the urban poor, displaced workers, jeepney drivers, street vendors, indigent children, indigent senior citizens, and so on. Each City Government office and department should coordinate with the City Social Services and Development Department (SSDD) to identify a legitimate representative of its chosen sector no later than September 30, 2020. The representative may be an NGO, civic group, charity, association or similar organization.

**SECTION 3. Equivalent Donation.** Each City Government office and department is encouraged to donate an amount to the sectoral representative equivalent to the customary amount that the office/department would have raised for its Christmas party, not later than December 23, 2020.

**SECTION 4. Dissemination.** A copy of this Executive Order shall be furnished to the Office of the President and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for information and guidance pursuant to Section 455(1)(xii) of RA 7160, as amended, and shall be posted at the official website of the Quezon City Government.

**SECTION 5. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until December 31, 2020.

DONE, \_\_\_ September 2020, Quezon City.

  
MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE  
City Mayor