



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
23rd City Council

PO23CC-048

21st Regular Session

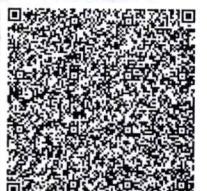
ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3461**, S-2025

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL FOOD RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY THAT SELL HALAL FOOD TO PROVIDE A SEPARATE SHELF OR STORAGE EXCLUSIVELY FOR HALAL FOOD AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Councilors VICTOR "Vic" D. BERNARDO, DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D. and EMMANUEL BANJO A. PILAR

Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Bernard R. Herrera, Joseph P. Juico, Charm Ferrer, CPA, MPA, JD, Nicole "Nikki" V. Crisologo, Mikey F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Atty. Voltaire Godofredo "Bong" Liban III, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Geleen "Dok G" Lumbad, Atty. Christoffer Allan "Tope" Liquigan, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Don S. De Leon, Luigi D. Pumaren, Atty. Vicente Belmonte Jr., Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Nanette Castelo Daza, Atty. Jesus Miguel Suntay, Raquel S. Malañgen, Joseph Joe Visaya, Aiko Melendez, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Karl Edgar Castelo, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Vito Sotto Generoso, Erwin Rey "Cocoy" A. Medina, Jose Maria "Mari" M. Rodriguez and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article III of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines ensures the free exercise of religion and Article II of the same Constitution promotes the general welfare of all citizens;



WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9997, otherwise known as the “National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Act of 2009,” was enacted to ensure the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions, and institutions, as well as to further ensure their contribution to national goals and aspirations and to make them active participants in nation-building. It created the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), which is mandated to preserve and develop the culture, tradition, institutions, and well-being of Muslim Filipinos, in conformity with the Country’s laws and in consonance with national unity and development. One of its vested powers and functions to accomplish its mandate is to promote and develop the Philippine Halal Industry and accredit Halal-certifying entities or bodies for the utmost benefit of Muslim Filipinos and in partnership or cooperation with appropriate agencies, individuals, and institutions here and abroad;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10817, otherwise known as the “Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016,” declares it as the policies of the State to develop and promote Halal industries as a mode of achieving equity and justice among our farmers and producers, and increasing employment opportunities for the domestic labor force, and to protect consumers and users of Halal products, processes and services from unscrupulous and unfair agricultural, manufacturing and trade practices. It provides that the State shall institute measures and provide programs to ensure compliance and integrity of producers, manufacturers and providers of Halal products, processes and services to national and/or international or foreign standards;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” provides that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. It states that local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, Muslim communities are present in various regions of the Philippines including the National Capital Region, and Quezon City is home to a notable Muslim population, contributing to the City’s cultural and religious diversity;

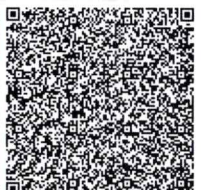
WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for Halal-certified food products in Quezon City, driven by the increasing number of Muslim residents and visitors who require access to Halal-compliant food. The Quezon City Government recognizes its duty to promote inclusivity by ensuring that the needs of all its constituents, including access to religiously compliant food choices are adequately met;

α

κ

~~α~~

9



WHEREAS, the designation of a separate shelf or storage for Halal-certified food products in food retail establishments is necessary to uphold consumer protection, prevent cross-contamination, and preserve the integrity of products represented as Halal, ensuring that consumers can make informed choices and that the availability of such products meets the dietary requirements and preferences of Muslim residents and visitors in Quezon City, while upholding the constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and fair, non-discriminatory access to goods and services for all.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known as the “Quezon City Halal Food Shelf or Storage Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Quezon City Government to foster inclusivity, uphold respect for cultural and religious diversity, and improve food security by ensuring the availability and accessibility of Halal-certified food products to the City’s Muslim residents and visitors. The Quezon City Government affirms the right of Muslim consumers to obtain food that is consistent with their religious beliefs and commits to creating an environment that safeguards product integrity, promotes consumer confidence, and supports the sustainable growth of the Halal industry as part of its broader goals of public welfare, cultural harmony, and economic development.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. **Cross-contamination** – refers to the direct or indirect transfer of non-Halal substances or materials to Halal food products during handling, storage, display, or transportation, thereby compromising Halal integrity;
- b. **Display** – refers to the arrangement of products for sale within a food retail establishment, including shelving, refrigeration units, or other fixtures that serve a similar purpose;
- c. **Exclusively for halal food** – refers to the requirement that only Halal-certified food and beverage items shall be stored, displayed, or sold in the designated shelf or storage of a food retail establishment, and that such area shall not contain non-Halal items or products without valid Halal certification markings for retail claim purposes;



- d. **Food retail establishment** – refers to any commercial premises situated in a fixed and permanent physical location, with a defined structure or space, a specific street address, covered by the requisite business permits, and accessible to the public during regular business hours, operated by a natural or juridical person, where the principal business is the sale of food and beverage items for off-premises consumption. This term includes groceries, supermarkets, hypermarkets, convenience stores, and similar retail outlets; and excludes itinerant vendors, temporary or seasonal stalls, exclusively online sellers without a public storefront, wholesale-only warehouses, and food service establishments primarily for on-premises consumption such as restaurants, cafes, or canteens. Sari-sari stores and other local neighborhood stores are likewise excluded, considering the nature and scale of their operations;
- e. **Halal** – refers to an Arabic term meaning “permissible” or “lawful,” pertaining to goods, including food and beverages, that are allowed for consumption or use under Islamic law (Shariah) as prescribed in the Qur’an and the Hadith, and which meet the conditions set out in recognized Halal standards;
- f. **Halal-certifying body** – refers to an entity accredited by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) to certify products, processes, and facilities as Halal in accordance with applicable laws and recognized Halal standards;
- g. **Halal certification** – refers to the official attestation that a product, its ingredients, and its processing comply with Halal requirements, issued by a Halal-certifying body accredited by the NCMF;
- h. **Halal food** – refers to any food or beverage that is certified as Halal by a Halal-certifying body accredited by the NCMF, and that does not consist of or contain anything unlawful according to Islamic law; has not been prepared, processed, transported, or stored using any appliance or facility contaminated by anything unlawful; and has not, during preparation, processing, transportation, or storage, been in direct contact with any food that fails these conditions. For the purpose of this Ordinance, such product shall also bear a valid Halal certification mark issued by the said body;
- i. **Halal signage** – refers to visible marks, labels, or signs within a food retail establishment that clearly identify products or areas as containing Halal-certified food, indicating exclusive Halal designation;



- j. **Muslim** – refers to a person who testifies to the oneness of God and the Prophethood of Muhammad and professes the religion of Islam;
- k. **Non-halal food** – refers to any food or beverage that does not meet the conditions for Halal food;
- l. **Off-premises consumption** – refers to the purchase of food or beverage products intended to be consumed outside the premises of the food retail establishment;
- m. **Operator** – refers to any person who or entity that owns, manages, or controls the operations of a food retail establishment; and
- n. **Separate shelf or storage** – refers to a physically distinct and clearly designated area within a food retail establishment intended exclusively for the display and sale of Halal-certified food, visibly marked with appropriate signage, and arranged to prevent contact with non-Halal items.

SECTION 4. MANDATORY DESIGNATION OF SEPARATE SHELF OR STORAGE FOR HALAL FOOD. – All food retail establishments, operating within Quezon City for off-premises consumption, shall designate a separate shelf or storage exclusively for Halal food in their respective establishments.

The operator of the food retail establishment shall ensure that the designated separate shelf or storage:

- a. bears clear and visible Halal signage stating “Halal Food Products” or other wording indicating exclusive Halal designation. In no case shall halal food within the designated shelf or storage be labeled, described, or marketed as “Halal-friendly”, “Muslim-friendly”, or any similar term, as food is either Halal or non-Halal;
- b. contains only Halal food, each with valid Halal certification issued by a Halal-certifying body accredited by the NCMF;
- c. is physically arranged to prevent cross-contamination with non-Halal food, whether through direct or indirect contact; and
- d. occupies an area of the establishment that is readily accessible to consumers, with display arrangements that clearly distinguish Halal food from all others and is maintained in a manner that facilitates inspection and monitoring for compliance with this Ordinance.



SECTION 5. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION. – A food retail establishment found to be in full compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance during inspection by the appropriate offices of the Quezon City Government shall be issued a Certificate of Recognition. The Certificate shall be awarded to the operator as acknowledgment of the establishment's compliance with the Halal food shelf or storage requirements set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. MONITORING, INSPECTION, AND IMPLEMENTATION. – The Quezon City Bangsamoro Affairs Service (QCBAS), in coordination with the Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD), shall be responsible for the monitoring, inspection, and implementation of this Ordinance.

The QCBAS, through its department head and in coordination with the BPLD, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance within forty-five (45) days from its effectivity. Such implementing rules and regulations shall take effect upon the approval of the City Mayor and shall thereafter have the full force and effect of law.

SECTION 7. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. – Any food retail establishment found violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. First Offense – Written warning with an order to comply within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the order. Failure to comply within the prescribed period shall constitute a separate offense subject to the next higher penalty.
- b. Second Offense – Fine of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00) and an order to comply within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the order. Failure to comply within the prescribed period shall constitute a separate offense subject to the next higher penalty.
- c. Third Offense – Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00) and suspension of business permit until full compliance is verified.
- d. Fourth Offense – Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00), revocation of business permit, and closure of business.

SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars, and administrative orders and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.



SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any provision of this Ordinance is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication for a minimum of three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

ENACTED: October 22, 2025.

CERTIFICATION

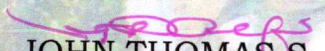
This is to certify that this Ordinance was ENACTED by the City Council on Second Reading on October 22, 2025 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on November 12, 2025.


GIAM G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED: DEC 05 2025


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

ATTESTED:


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(Secretary to the Sanggunian)

