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Philippine Information Agency

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Friday, 18 March 2011



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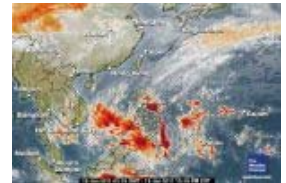
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Zamboanga City experienced a change again in the weather as general condition is fair. At around 2:00 this afternoon, dark clouds hovered the city, as people expected the rain to fall but the dark clouds slowly disappeared and moved towards the eastern part of the city.

31 minutes ago

Weather Watch

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Persons with Disabilities in Antique seek for their rights

by Margie L. Gadian

SAN JOSE, Antique, Mar 1 (PIA) – In a rare moment of getting together, Person's With disabilities (PWDs) in the Province of Antique, gathered for a one-day forum to seek for their rights.

Coming in the throves from Laua-an, Bugasong, Barbaza, Tobias Fornier, Tibiao and San Jose, all of them came to clarify their rights under Republic Act 9442 which amended RA 7277 known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

Top on the PWDs inquiries were the discounts they are entitled to especially the 20% on medicines purchased and other goods. It appears that some drugstores are not giving the discounts due the PWDs.

Another right the group was asking was the access to government and private buildings. Most buildings in San Jose especially lacks the necessary access for persons with disability. It seems that the implementation of the accessibility law has not been fully maximize.

Governor Exequiel B. Javier in his message to the stakeholders said "the PWDS are entitled to their rights just like normal persons." He is providing assistance to them so that they can live a normal life.

Javier who has a soft heart for the disabled has set aside an amount of P1.2 million from the Provincial Government coffers to build a center for PWDs.

Meanwhile, Mayor Aser Baladjay of Laua-an who has a strong and dynamic group of PWDs said that he will lobby with the Provincial Government to give clout to LGUs to exercise their mandated duty to support the cause of the disabled.

Baladjay added that PWDs should be empowered and capacitated so that they become useful members of society.

In addition to the earlier rights mentioned, PWDs are also entitled to discounts on transportation, they also have the right to seek employment whether it be government or private establishments.

On hand to answer queries from the participants were panelists from DSWD, CHR, DTI, PHO, PDAO IBP and the business sector.

The forum was capped with the oath-taking of officers and members of the Provincial Council on Disability Affairs (PCDA) and launching of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO).

Antiques has a total of about 3,000 registered disabled persons. (JCM/MLG/PIA6 Antique)

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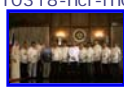
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