

Antique PWDs clarify rights

MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2011 21:59 ADMINISTRATOR



SAN JOSE – Persons with disabilities (PWDs) converged in a forum to clarify their rights, particularly the Republic Act 9442 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

Participants of the said forum were from Laua-an, Bugasong, Barbaza, Tobias Fornier, Tibiao and San Jose.

The PWDs inquired about the discounts there are entitled two, especially the 20 percent discount on medicines. It was learned that some drugstores are not giving discounts due them.

The group also clarified their right to access government and private buildings. It was learned that most buildings, especially in San Jose, lack facilities for easier access of PWDs thereby giving them impression that the accessibility law has not been fully enforced.

Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier, in his message to the stakeholders said “the PWDS are entitled to their rights just like normal persons.”

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

Meanwhile, Laua-an Mayor Aser Baladjay said 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 Department of Social Welfare and Development , Commission on Human Rights, Department of Trade and Industry, Provincial Health Office, Persons with Disability Affairs Office, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, 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 the PDAO.

Antiques has about 3,000 registered disabled persons.*PIA