

Athletes with disabilities representing Zamboanga City in the 3rd National Paralympic Games held at the Mariki Sports Complex in Marikina City from May 5-25, bagged 16 medals—5 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze.

Teddy Kahil, head of the Persons with Disabilities Unit (PDAU) of the City Social Welfare and Development Office who is also the president of the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled (PHILSPADA)- Zamboanga Chapter said the Zamboanga delegation participated in 6 events and gave out their best to bring home the medals.

The events participated by the Zamboanga delegation were swimming that included the 50 meters butterfly, 50 meters back stroke and 50 meters free style; bowling; athletics particularly the 100-meter run, 200-meter run and running long jump; goal ball, power lifting and chess.

Three of the 5 gold medals were courtesy of the participants in the athletics events, one in swimming and one in chess. Of the 7 silver medals, 4 were from the athletics, 2 from swimming and 1 from powerlifting while 3 of the total 4 bronze medals were contributed by the participants in the Goal ball and 1 from the athletics event.

Kahil expressed elation that despite their limitations, the Zamboanga athletes with disabilities did their utmost best bring pride to the city.

The Zamboanga delegation's medal haul was expected to add as results of the goal ball and powerlifting were still being awaited as of press time Saturday (May 24).

Meanwhile, the Zamboanga delegation paid a courtesy visit at the National Council Disability Affairs (NCDA) office where they were welcomed by two national Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) officials who were former DSWD-9 directors- Undersecretary Parisya Taradji and Assistant Secretary Teodulo Romo. Jr.

Romo even had an exhibition game on chess with Zamboanga's very own Joseph Gregana,

who is PHILSPADA, National Paragames 2014 gold medalist.

The Zamboanga delegation thanks the City Government through the City Sports Development Division under the Office of the City Mayor and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), the Area Vocational and Rehabilitation Center III- DSWD-9 and the World Blind Union (WBU) for the financial and technical support. — Henry Salac