

The business climate in Zamboanga City and the whole region is good and positively moving on.

This was the assessment of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Branch Head Melodino Patiño saying that trade and commerce are robust in the city and in the entire Zamboanga Peninsula .

Among the significance on business climate is the presence of banking system in the region including Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Patiño said that Zamboanga City ranks No.1 in banking network with 54 bank branches in the city. Second is Dipolog City; third Pagadian City; fourth is Zamboanga Sibugay and fifth Basilan; Sixth is Jolo Sulu and seventh, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

On Local Government Unit bank deposits. Zamboanga City is number one, second is Dipolog City, third Pagadian City, fourth Zamboanga Sibugay, fifth Basilan, sixth Sulu and seventh is Tawi-Tawi.

He explained that Zamboanga City always ranks No. 1 because it is the center of convergence of business activities in the region, the melting pot for trade and commerce and the center of education. Port operations also connect from Manila to Cebu, Iloilo, Gen. Santos City Davao City, are also a contributing factor to the good business climate in Zamboanga City.

Other significance on the good business climate, Patiño said, are construction of new hotels and restaurants, convention halls for hosting of local, national and international events. — Allen Abastillas