

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 in Quetta

Media Coverage Report

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پارلیمانی سیکرٹری سماجی بہبود و حاجی ولی محمد نور زئی عالمی یوم معذوران کے موقع پر معذور افراد میں شیلڈ اور سرٹیفیکیشن تقسیم کر رہے ہیں۔ (فوٹو ڈی جی پی آر)



پارلیمانی سیکرٹری سماجی بہبود و حاجی ولی محمد نور زئی عالمی یوم معذوران کے موقع پر منعقدہ تقریب میں لگائے گئے اسٹال کا معائنہ کر رہے ہیں۔ (فوٹو ڈی جی پی آر)

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Balochistan launches KUMAK program to support persons with disabilities

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has launched the KUMAK Program, a dedicated fund to support persons with disabilities (PWDs), coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

A launching ceremony was held on Wednesday to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, with a large number of PWDs, civil society members, and government officials in attendance.

Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai, said the initiative aims to provide financial assistance and opportunities for marginalized communities. He urged civil society, government departments, donor organizations, and volunteers to join hands in supporting PWDs and strengthening the Social Welfare Department's efforts.

Noorzai emphasized the need to raise awareness and sensitize society about the importance of including persons with disabilities in all walks of life. "Disability is a challenge, not a weakness," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring welfare programs and employment quotas of 5 percent for PWDs across public and private organizations. He noted that the program was promised last year and has now been executed with the support of Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

Secretary Social Welfare Asmatullah Qureshi announced that under the newly launched program, persons with disabilities (PWDs) pursuing education from matriculation to PhD across the country will receive scholarships.

He stated that PWDs enrolled in technical education and vocational training will be provided annual financial support of Rs 100,000. In addition, deserving individuals will be prioritized for assistive devices, including electronic wheelchairs, tri-motorcycles, and other modern technologies.

Qureshi added that financial assistance of Rs 200,000 will be granted to PWDs for marriage expenses, while regular support will be extended to the most marginalized groups, including mentally challenged persons.

The program also includes interest-free loans of up to Rs 500,000 to help PWDs establish businesses and create livelihood opportunities.

According to Qureshi, approximately 33,000 persons with disabilities are currently registered with the Social Welfare Department, while the recent census recorded 312,000 special persons in Balochistan.

Qureshi noted that around 33,000 PWDs are registered with the Social Welfare Department, while the recent census recorded 312,000 persons with disabilities in Balochistan.

Chief Executive of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Nadir Gul Barech, announced the establishment of a Center of Excellence for the Deaf and Mute in Quetta, in collaboration with the Family Education Support Foundation (FESF) and the Social Welfare Department. He highlighted similar initiatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan, along with satellite schools nationwide.

Barech pledged continued PPAF support for education, sports, and rehabilitation programs, recalling the organization's role in social welfare since the 2005 earthquake. He stressed that 5-10 percent of country population lives with disabilities and called for balanced efforts to address their needs.

He lauded stakeholders for their contributions and reaffirmed PPAF's commitment to expanding opportunities for persons with special needs, including employment and rehabilitation.-APP

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