

More areas to be energized in Sarangani and South Cotabato under SEP



SOCOTECO workers start the energization of sitios in Barangay Datal Bukay, Municipality of Glan Sarangani

More rural communities within the coverage area of the South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Socoteco II) will be connected to the electricity grid this year under the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP).

Engr. Crisanto Sotelo, general manager of Socoteco II, said electrification work has commenced in February to power up 46 more sitios included in the SEP of the NEA.

"In the past years, we are striving to remain true to our commitment of delivering electrification to rural and remote areas, including the hardest-to-reach homes in Mindanao. Once energized, we expect the social and economic benefits in these areas to be significant," Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said.

Of the number, 11 sitios are located in Brgy. Datal Bukay, Municipality of Glan in Sarangani province.

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With the total cost of P61.46 million, Socoteco II expects the completion of these electrification projects within this year, which will benefit more than 1,800 households.

"Since the beginning of the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) in 2011, there has been a massive implementation of the electrification program," General Manager Sotelo said.

Sitio Colambog, a small community of around 100 households, became the first among 11 sitios in Datal Bukay that was energized. On February 18, inhabitants of this community celebrated the arrival of electricity after living for decades without access to power.

Before electricity was available, some of the residents in Sitio Colambog relied on kerosene lamps as their primary source of lighting after dark, while the others had small solar panels.

Barangay Datal Bukay captain Rodolfo Mabuhay expects electricity connection to improve productive hours in a household, enhance children's education, and boost the livelihood in the area.

Bringing power to far-flung and isolated areas is never easy, as there are also challenges involved. Socoteco II cited accessibility and security as among the hindrances to power development efforts.

In 2018, Socoteco II was able to connect 11 sitios.

To houses that cannot be connected to the grid due to distance, Socoteco II will be providing solar home systems (SHS), thanks to European Union's Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP).

In 2018, Socoteco II installed 2,500 units of SHS to households located in the Municipality Malungon, Sarangani. For this year, Socoteco II has 7,500 units of SHS to be distributed to households located within the cooperative's franchise area. #



The locals of Sitio Colambog, Datal Bukay Sarangani enjoy the service and benefits of electricity for the first time

NEA to FICELCO: Adopt measures to avert power interruptions this summer

In anticipation of higher electricity demand during the summer season, the NEA has advised the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO) to take necessary measures to reduce the possibility of power interruptions.



Line rehabilitation and power restoration works being done in the Province of Catanduanes

This after the National Power Corporation (NPC) has decided to defer the deployment of Power Barge (PB) 106 to Catanduanes, which will supposedly augment and stabilize the power situation in the province.

NPC cited as a reason that the Sunwest Water and Electric Company (SUWECO) has fast-tracked the deployment and installation of 6MW mobile diesel generator sets as part of its obligation to the 2nd Amendment of Energy Supply Agreement (ESA) with FICELCO, and its target of completion is in April.

As such, according to NPC, the total dependable capacity of power supply will increase up to 15.5MW as against the present power demand of 12.5MW and with a reserve capacity of 1.58MW during summer season.

Therefore, the NPC has decided to defer the deployment of power barge to Catanduanes as it would cost the agency an approximately P10 million for the construction of mooring facilities in the province.