

Task Force Kapatid tapped to restore power restoration in typhoon-hit areas



Task Force Kapatid (TFK), a time-tested compact of cooperation among electric cooperatives, was once again mobilized to help ECs affected by the onslaught of Typhoons Ursula and Tisoy which hit the country in December last year..

It is a special unit of electrification workers strategically deployed by the NEA in coordination with the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (Philreca) to help out in the continuing power line rehabilitation efforts.

Around 25,300 households in areas devastated by Typhoon “Ursula,”struggled with prolonged outages in the wake of these storms. These areas were served by the Iloilo III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Ileco III), Aklan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Akelco), and Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Omeco).

The NEA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) said the TFK operation was manned by 357 engineers and line workers, equipped with 39 boom trucks and 15 utility vehicles from 45 ECs aiding Akelco, Ileco III, and Omeco in their post-‘Ursula’ recovery activities.

In Albay, some 57 line workers from nine ECs assisted Aleco, while a 21-man crew from Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Casureco IV) and First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Ficelco) participated to help Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Soreco I) in Sorsogon.

With respect to Typhoon “Tisoy,” it affected the areas served by Aleco, Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Norsamelco), Soreco I, and Ticao Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Tiselco).

The NEA Administrator visits typhoon-ravaged ECs in Western Visayas

As a show of support, Administrator Masongsong visited the typhoon-ravaged ECs particularly Akelco on January 6. In his message, he thanked the different regional and national EC organizations that responded to the call of the agency for help. The commitment and dedication of all participating line workers have quickened the pace of power restoration.

“The restoration is actually fast given the extent of damage from the recent typhoons, the limited resources available both materials and manpower, and the challenges in the restoration such as the terrain and

distance, among others,” Masongsong said.

Before proceeding to Akelco, Masongsong paid a visit first to Ileco III and Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Capelco) to check on the power restoration activities by Task Force Kapatid “Ursula.”

The NEA chief appealed to the member-consumers of the ECs for understanding and patience as to the pace of the restoration works, noting that the line crews in the field had been working round-the-clock and doing everything to restore the power as soon as possible.

He also asked the local communities to support the ECs and their line workers and personnel in carrying out basic tasks, such as collecting rocks to reinforce utility poles in their areas or clearing the vegetation, which caused the falling of the poles during the typhoon.

The NEA-DRRMD, meanwhile, estimated the total cost of damage to EC facilities by these typhoons at P1.491 billion; P911.668-million was incurred from ‘Tisoy’ and P579.464-million from ‘Ursula.’ ###

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