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Government releases P3.9 B subsidy for Yolanda-affected ECs



Secretary Carlos Jericho L. Petilla hands over calamity grant to Leyeco III General Manager Allan Laniba and Board President Cornelio Brazil to aid the cooperative in its recovery efforts.

Recognizing the need to fast-track the rehabilitation of Yolanda-hit communities, the government, through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), has released P3.929 billion to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to cover subsidy for the implementation of the Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan (YRRP) Project. The fund is chargeable against Republic Act No. 10352 or the Fiscal Year 2013 General Appropriations Act.

The subsidy will benefit 33 Yolanda-hit electric cooperatives (ECs) in 19 provinces, including six island provinces in Luzon and 13 in Visayas.

The rehabilitation project covers replacement of damaged electric distribution systems and repair of damaged substations, communication equipment, linemen tools, vehicles, and headquarters of affected ECs.

As of March 28, 2014, a total of P1.6 billion was released to the EC-beneficiaries.

Previously, NEA also released P674.166 million as calamity loans to 23 ECs affected by Yolanda.

NEA Administrator Edita Bueno thanked President Benigno Aquino for making funds available for the affected ECs.

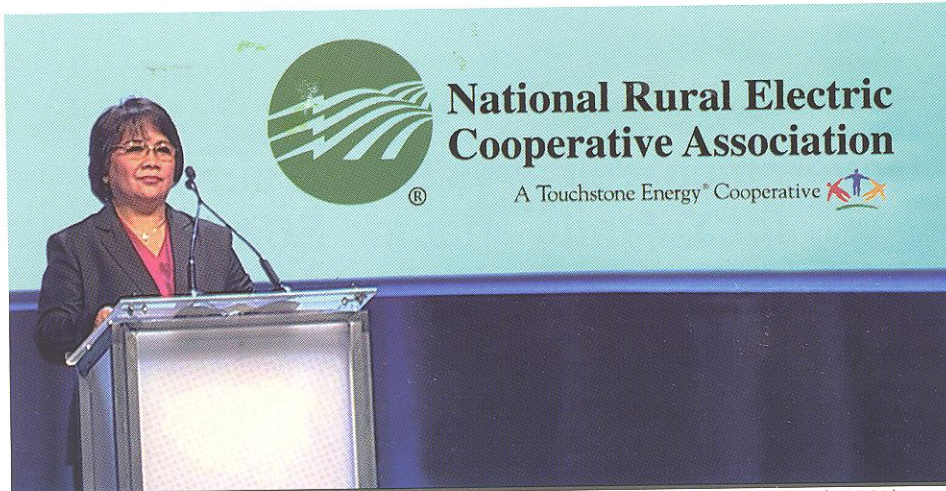
She said "the subsidy will speed up the rehabilitation and restoration of power lines in the affected areas and in the recovery efforts of the member-consumers who suffered the brunt of the disaster."

The 33 beneficiaries of the subsidy grant include ECs in Busuanga Island (Biselco), Marinduque (Marelco), Tablas Island (Tielco), Occidental Mindoro (Omeco), Oriental Mindoro (Ormeco), Masbate (Maselco), Ticao Island (Tiselco), Antique (Anteco), Aklan (Akelco), Capiz (Capelco),

► SUBSIDY/3



NEA thanks NRECA, seeks further support for Yolanda rehab



of lives lost, families broken, and communities battered,” Yolanda also caused extensive damages to properties and facilities.

“The once beautiful islands have been isolated, turned dead, cut off from the world, with no food, no light, no water, and losing hope,” she said.

In the same meeting, Administrator Bueno thanked NRECA for providing immediate assistance to electric cooperatives (ECs) that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yolanda.

Administrator Bueno said that *“NRECA’s initial donation of \$25,000.00 immediately helped fund the mobilization cost for the task forces coming from the major islands of Luzon and Mindanao.”*

While she noted the recovery



Administrator Edita Bueno thanks the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) in its Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, for Yolanda aid.

“There can be no economic resurgence if power is not available.”

Thus said National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Edita Bueno during the Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) held at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee, March 4-7.

The plenary session gathered about 10,000 participants from some 980 ECs of the United States.

Administrator Bueno was present in the meeting to speak on Super Typhoon Yolanda’s swath of destruction, which she saw firsthand.

She said that aside from “thousands

World Bank partners with NEA to scale up renewable energy development

NEA and World Bank are partnering anew to scale up the promotion and development of renewable energy-based power generation in the wake of global warming and power crisis in the country.

According to NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, “this collaboration is in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 10531, otherwise known as the NEA Reform Act of 2013.”

She added that “this is in line with the government’s thrust to promote Renewable Energy Projects and bring them to the stage where they are effectively bankable using commercial bank financing, backed by the World Bank’s Philippines Renewable Energy Development (PhRED) Project.”

Alongside this development, NEA

came out with a handbook designed to give electric cooperatives (ECs) information on the technical, procedural, financial, and legal aspects of mini-hydro development.

Entitled *NEA and EC Handbook for the Development of Mini-Hydro Projects in the Philippines*, the handbook is useful for ECs with existing mini-hydro projects and those planning to embark on such endeavors.

It also contains technical training details for aspiring hydro engineers.

In November 2013, NEA created

the Office of the Renewable Energy Development (ORED) to facilitate the development of renewable energy-based power generation with the ECs by extending them assistance on Technical Engineering and Environmental and Social Project Development.

The Office is also mandated to provide commercial advice for project development.

It is currently headed by Engr. Ernesto Silvano, Jr. and supervised by Deputy Administrator for Electric Distribution Utilities Services Edgardo Piamonte.

Subsidy . . . from 1

Iloilo (Ileco I, Ileco II, and Ileco III), Central Negros (Ceneco), VMC Rural Electric Service Cooperative, Inc. (Vresco), Cebu (Cebeco I, Cebeco II, and Cebeco III), Bantayan Island (Banelco), Camotes (Celco), Bohol (Boheco I and Boheco II), Don Orestes Romualdez Electric Cooperative, Inc./Leyte (Dorelco/Leyeco I, Leyeco II, Leyeco III, Leyeco IV, and Leyeco V), Southern Leyte (Soleco), Biliran (Bileco),

Eastern Samar (Esamelco), Samar (Samelco I and Samelco II), and Northern Samar (Norsamelco).

Meanwhile, P25 million was released to Boheco I for the restoration of damaged distribution lines in its coverage areas following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Bohol in October 2013.

Likewise, P277.071 million was released for the rehabilitation of

the following ECs: Davao Oriental (Doreco), Davao del Norte (Daneco), Lanao del Norte (Laneco), Misamis Oriental (Moresco II), Agusan del Sur (Aselco), Bukidnon (Buseco II), and Surigao del Sur (Surseco I). They were all damaged by Typhoon Pablo in December 2012.

The national government, through NEA, also released an additional P51 million to Doreco, and will release an aggregate of P125 million to Daneco to complete the rehabilitation and power restoration projects in the coverage areas of these ECs.

Currently, NEA is formulating the guidelines on YRRP Project Implementation to uphold transparency and accountability in the release of funds to the ECs.

An oversight group was likewise formed to supervise the implementation of the rehabilitation plan.



Linemen of Leyeco V begin line rehabilitation in Barangay Cogon, Ormoc City immediately following Yolanda's devastation in Nov. 2012.

ECs finalize SEP, BLEP masterlists

Following the need to monitor revisions to the Electric Cooperative (EC) Masterlists for the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) and Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP) and align them to the 2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA), NEA called for a series of regional workshops involving ECs from all over the country.

The first leg of the workshop series, which kicked off last February 26 at the Honesty, Efficiency, and Solidarity Auditorium (HESA) in NEA, was attended by Luzon ECs.

Succeeding workshops for Region 10 and CARAGA and Region IX and ARMM ECs were

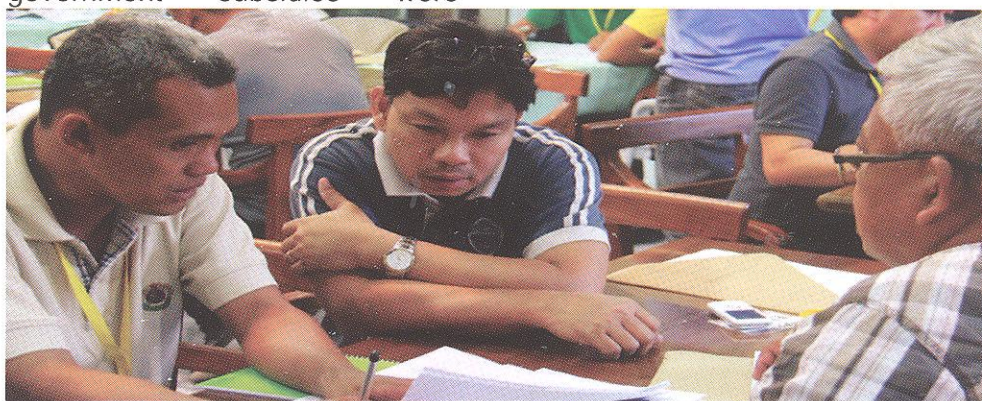
held respectively in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, March 18-21 and March 25-28.

In the workshop, "haciendas," schools, beach resorts, villages, private lands, and other areas not deemed appropriate for government subsidies were

identified by each EC and dropped from the masterlist.

NEA also summoned ECs to come up with a final list of pass-by and/or "nanganak" sitios, which will be funded by a separate line item in the 2015 GAA.

▶ MASTERLISTS/8



EC participants engage in a discussion of Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) and Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP) Masterlists cleansing.

NEWS BYTES

Task Force Kapatid participants feted

To recognize 56 NEA-Task Force Kapatid (NEA-TFK) participants who rendered untiring services in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda, a special ceremony was held at HESA last January 6.

Led by NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, the ceremony looked back on the arduous experiences of the NEA-TFK participants, as they helped in the line rehabilitation and power restoration efforts of typhoon-hit communities in Eastern Visayas.

The 56 NEA-TFK participants were deployed in the coverage areas of

Dorelco/Leyeco I, Leyeco II, III, and V, Samelco I and II, and Esamelco.

Their deployment in the affected coverage areas range from one month to two months.

For her part, Administrator Bueno said the accomplishment of the NEA-TFK participants was truly commendable.

“Your contributions have definitely lessened the woes of our fellow Filipinos in Visayas. Without your assistance, they could not have risen just as fast. You are their warriors of light,” she said.



In a special ceremony, NEA-Task Force Kapatid participants received commendation for providing unswerving assistance to taskforce operations after Yolanda barreled through Eastern Visayas.

NEA to join search for most eco-friendly offices

In its bid to promote environmental management awareness, NEA is set to join the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 2014 Search for the Most Eco-Friendly Government Offices.

This is the second time NEA is joining the competition.

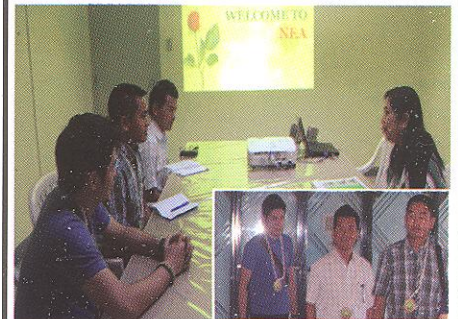
Criteria to be used for this year's search include Promotion of Awareness, Greening, Electricity, Fuel and Water Conservation,

Waste Management, Emergency Preparedness, Air Pollution Prevention, Green Procurement, Power Reliability, Efficiency, and Safety, and Brigada Ahensiya.

In 2011, NEA received the competition's top honors for its continuing advocacy for the conservation of energy and maintenance of a clean and green environment through its Environmental Management Program (EMP).

Bhutan Electricity Authority staff visit NEA

Two staff of the Bhutan Electricity Authority (BEA) visited NEA last February 7 as part of their study tour series on the Philippine Electric Power Industry.



OCET Director Nora Rivera briefs the delegates of Bhutan Electricity Authority (BEA) on the history and milestones of the Philippine Rural Electrification Program.

Mr Jigme Dorji and Mr Thinley Zangpo, an engineer and an inspector, respectively, were given a briefing by the Office for Corporate and Electric Cooperatives Training (OCET) on the history and milestones of the Philippine Rural Electrification Program and the organizational structure and operations of NEA and the electric cooperatives (ECs).

The briefing was led by OCET Director Nora Rivera.

During the briefing, Dorji and Zangpo boasted of the 95% energization status of Bhutan and the ongoing measures of the government to reach 100%.

They also mentioned that in Bhutan, power is free for consumption below 100 kWh and 2 Bhutanese Ngultrum (BNU) or around P1/kWh for 100 to 200 kWh consumption.

For many years, NEA has served as a model for other countries in implementing its Rural Electrification Program.

Delegates from India, Mongolia, and Kenya have been coming to the country to study the program's best practices.

NEA honors its retirees

To honor eight employees who reached the peak of their career in government service this year, a special activity dubbed “Salamat NEAn” was held on separate occasions at HESA. The employees came mostly from the Management Assistance Group (MAG) where experts in EC operations and management are assigned.



Deputy Administrator Mariano T. Cuenco receives his certificate in a special occasion honoring his significant contributions to NEA.



BENEDICTO B. PERALTA

Department Manager, MAG-Field Operations

(March 25, 1975 to March 21, 2013)

He was part of the Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) created to directly manage various electric cooperatives in the country. His expertise in institutional and financial matters were instrumental in sustaining the operational efficiency of the ECs.



PAULINO T. LOPEZ

Department Manager, MAG-Field Operations

(August 14, 1973 to December 11, 2013)

He brought into the mainstream of rural industrialization his competencies, skills, and innovations in laying strong foundations of management and engineering framework for the establishment and development of ECs as strong institutions.



EVANGELITO S. ESTACA

Department Manager, MAG-Field Operations

(August 27, 1975 to June 28, 2013)

He was known for his untiring service, commendable performance, and leadership in helping ECs achieve a turnaround in their operational performance.



MODESTO A. MADRONA, JR.

EC Development Chief, MAG-Field Operations

(November 17, 1975 to July 29, 2013)

He committed and dedicated his entire field stint by sharing his financial expertise and assisting the various ECs in the country, especially in Davao region.



VIVENCIO M. MOLINGBAYAN

Loan Analyst, Accounts Management and Guarantee Department

(August 1, 1980 to April 1, 2013)

He was a member of the ECO-Bliss Task Force which managed the implementation of the renewable source of energy, under the mini-Hydro Projects. His 33 years of dedication, creativity, and work efficiency contributed much to his performance as a public servant.



MARIANO T. CUENCO

Deputy Administrator, Office of DA for Corporate Resources and Finance Services

(July 16, 1973 to September 18, 2013)

Deputy Cuenco's institution of financial reforms, innovative lending programs and economic measures in the use of resources resulted in profitability of the organization and the benefit of the NEA & EC employees. He also brought pride in the organization by being a GAWAD CES national awardee.



ADOLBEN A. FLORES, Ph.D.

Department Manager, MAG-Supervisory and Assistance Office

(September 24, 1973 to August 6, 2013)

Dr Flores brought forth his competencies, skills, and initiatives in the development of NEA and ECs through capability-building programs. His perceptiveness and ingenuity was manifested in the execution of his projects and assignments.



Bosung Powertech donates P1.657 million worth of transformers for Yolanda rehab

To aid in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts of the ECs damaged by Super Typhoon Yolanda, Bosung Powertec Philippines, Inc. donated P1.657 million worth of distribution transformers to Leyeco II, Esamelco, and Akelco.

The donation includes eight units of 13.2 kV/120-240, 50 kVA and 10 units of 13.2 kV/120-240, 25 kVA distribution transformers.

Leyeco II received four units of 50 kVA and two units of 25 kVA, while Esamelco and Akelco were each given two units of 50 kVA and four units of 25 kVA.

The donation ceremony was held on March 14 at Bosung Powertec Philippines, Inc. Headquarters in Las Piñas City.

Bosung Powertec Chairman Do-Soo Lim awarded the donation certificates to the three ECs represented by Leyeco II Board President Rolando Hidalgo, Esamelco Institutional Services Manager Marilen Reyes, and Akelco Assistant General Manager for Engineering Engr. Joel Martinez.



Administrator Edita Bueno speaks to Bosung Powertec officials during the donation ceremony held on Mar. 14 at Bosung Powertec Philippines Headquarters in Las Piñas City.

Also present during the event were Bosung Powertec President and CEO Moon Jiang, Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) President Hyang-Reol Lyu, Korean Embassy Counsellor Jae-Hoon Lim, and NEA Administrator Edita Bueno.

For her part, Administrator Bueno thanked Bosung Powertec for lending assistance to the Yolanda rehabilitation efforts.

She said, "As we slowly recover from the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Yolanda in

Visayas, all forms of assistance, be it equipment or service, are greatly appreciated. Indeed, your donation will come a long way in the rehabilitation efforts in Leyte, Aklan, and Eastern Samar."

Since 2009, Busong Powertec and KEPCO have donated equipment to various ECs in the country.

Some of the donated equipment include power transformers, vacuum circuit breakers, metal-clad switchgears, lightning arresters, protection panels, and a unit of mobile substation.

ECs thank NEA for power restoration assistance

The Sangguniang Barangay of Placer, Masbate, through Resolution No. 16 S-2014, thanked NEA and Administrator Edita Bueno for restoring power in Barangay Calumpang, Placer.

In the resolution, the SB of Placer notes that "the municipality was provided by NEA a generator to electrify the community, but unfortunately this has broken down for quite some time, thereby depriving the constituents the

needed electricity."

The resolution adds that the power restoration was made possible "through the effort and representation of Commissioner Rainier B. Butalid."

Butalid is currently a Commissioner of the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG).

In response, Administrator Bueno said that "NEA strives to give

its utmost support to ECs, be it technical, financial, or institutional in nature."

"This is to ensure that they provide the best possible service to their member-consumers," she added.

Meanwhile, two ECs also thanked NEA, through Administrator Bueno, for its power restoration efforts.

In a special meeting of its Board



ORMECO to remain with NEA

Member-consumers of the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Ormeco) have decided to remain as non-stock, non-profit electric cooperative (EC) under the supervision of NEA.

In a referendum conducted on February 9, member-consumers from Ormeco's coverage area were given three options to: 1. remain as non-stock, non-profit EC under NEA, 2. convert into a stock

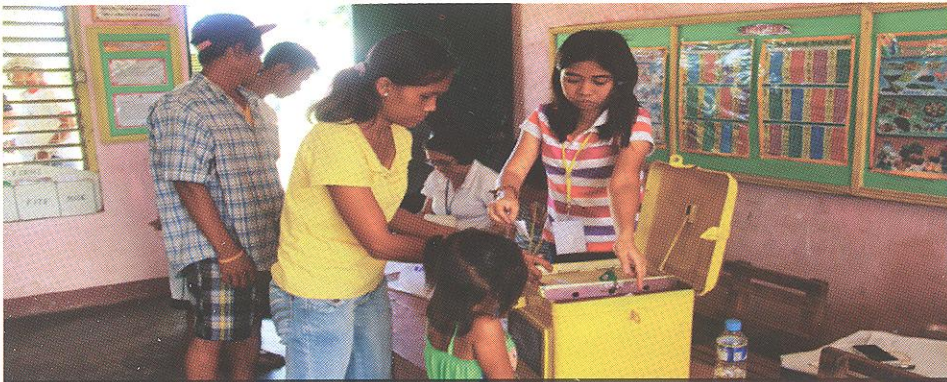
cooperative under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or 3. convert into a stock corporation under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Ormeco's coverage area includes Calapan City and 14 other municipalities in the province.

Of the 28,520 who voted, 27,400 or 96% chose Ormeco to remain with NEA. Meanwhile, 970 or 3%

preferred to convert into a stock cooperative and 150 or 0.52% chose to convert into a stock corporation.

Ormeco General Manager (GM) Romeo Cuasay assured the public of the referendum's integrity. He said the referendum process "was very transparent, as it was conducted not by Ormeco employees, but by the employees of other ECs and public school teachers."



An ORMECO member-consumer casts her vote in a referendum held on Feb. 9. The referendum was called to determine the cooperative's supervisory body.

In a resolution, Ormeco also lauded Leyeco III GM Allan Laniba for his involvement in the information campaign prior to the referendum.

Meanwhile, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno is confident that Ormeco will continue to be pivotal to the successful implementation of the Sitio Electrification Program.

She said "for years, Ormeco has been an outstanding EC committed to the welfare of its consumers."

Power restored in 25 typhoon-hit barangays

Power supply is back in the 25 remaining barangays in the municipalities of Cateel, Boston, and Baganga in Davao Oriental less than a month after the rehabilitation efforts by the government began last March 3.

Davao Oriental was one of the provinces heavily hit by Typhoon Pablo in December 2012.

In a switch-on ceremony held at Cateel Central Elementary School on March 30, Davao Oriental Gov. Corazon Malanyaon commended the restoration of power to the barangays whose completion was facilitated by NEA.

The rehabilitation efforts included construction of 119 km of distribution lines and erection of 1,549 poles. The rehabilitation was made possible by the P51.1 million subsidy grant released to Doreco.



Administrator Edita Bueno leads the switch-on ceremony on March 30 to mark the restoration of power to 25 barangays in Davao Oriental.

The grant enabled the deployment of 126 engineers and linemen from Doreco, with reinforcement from 11 ECs in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno thanked President Aquino for expediting the release of the calamity grant to the 25 barangays.

She also commended members of Task Force Kapatid (TFK) Pablo for lending assistance to the power restoration efforts.

In December 2012, TFK Pablo was mobilized by NEA following the onslaught of Typhoon Pablo in Southern Mindanao.

NRECA . . . from 2

efforts undertaken by NEA and the ECs through Task Force Kapatid Yolanda, she also called on NRECA for “the possibility of continuing assistance along the lines of review of standards and specifications of our distribution systems to ensure sturdier and resilient system that hopefully another Haiyan will not destroy as easy.”

“Your experience will help us a lot since our own power line systems had been patterned after yours,” she added.

In her speech, Administrator Bueno also took the opportunity to acknowledge NRECA President Curtis Nolan, CEO Jo Anne Emerson, Senior Vice President for International Programs Dan Waddle, and former President Mike Guidry, whose incumbency opened avenues for partnerships with NEA and the ECs.

A plaque of appreciation was presented by Administrator Bueno and NEA Board Member Wilfred Billena to NRECA to express gratitude on behalf of Yolanda survivors and the Philippine government.

For more than 40 years, NRECA, NEA, and the ECs have maintained a strong relationship, which resulted in significant energization programs in the country.

Masterlists. . . from 3

“Nanganak” sitios refer to emerging sitios as may be declared by a barangay captain, whereas pass-by sitios are those originally planned to be energized separately, but have been energized as an offshoot of another line construction. For the record, a sitio is not a political unit.

For Calendar Year 2015, Luzon has a total of 2,141 EC-programmed sitios for 2015 funding.

Meanwhile, figures for Visayas and Mindanao ECs have yet to be finalized.

The estimated project cost to cover energization of these sitios in Luzon is at P1.924 billion.

Other matters discussed during the workshop series include identification of doable solutions for sitios with right-of-way, road network, and peace and order problems and identification of sitios ECs choose to energize using off-grid options.

Identification of construction cost which may be considered exorbitant, collation of sitio profile information

which includes, among others, distance from tapping point and number of potential households and island beneficiaries, and harmonization of all Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) and PAMANA project requests from local government units, legislators, and other stakeholders with the masterlist were likewise discussed by the EC participants.

Currently, NEA is in the process of procuring a computer software for the SEP and BLEEP Masterlists.

The software is designed to monitor the implementation of the programs.

Thank . . . from 6

of Directors, Boheco I passed Resolution No. 96-2013, expressing gratitude to Administrator Bueno for assisting them in fast-tracking the restoration of power lines destroyed by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Bohol in October 2013.

Surseco I also conveyed its appreciation to NEA, the Association of Mindanao Electric Cooperatives (AMRECO), and the Caraga Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (CRECA) for initiating the creation of “Tabang Katalagman – Task Force Pablo.”

Surseco I’s Board Resolution states that “the Task Force has been instrumental in the speedy rehabilitation and restoration of Surseco I’s distribution system serving the power needs of the cooperative’s consumers sooner than expected.”

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