



Sitio Electrification Program completed under Aquino administration

NEA, ECs surpass 32,441 target with 247 sitios energized



President Benigno S. Aquino III congratulates NEA and the electric cooperatives during the switch-on ceremonies of the completed Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) held at the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Service Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I) Headquarters in Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental. Looking on (from L) are Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno, DOE Secretary Zenaida Monsada (third from L), DILG Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, MORESCO I Board President Nonito Labis, and MORESCO I General Manager Julie Real.

The Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) target under the administration of Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III is now 100% complete after NEA and the electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide were able to energize 32,688 sitios, surpassing the 32,441 target by 247.

President Benigno S. Aquino III on April 13, 2016 led the ceremonial switch-on for the completed project at the covered court of the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Service Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I) where he was assisted by Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada and NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno.

Identified as the 32,441st sitio energized was Sitio Sampaguita in Brgy. Calangahan, Lugait, Misamis Oriental.

The President said, "Dahil sa ginawa ng tatlong Kalihim ng ating Department of Energy, umpisa kay Rene Almendras, tumuloy kay Icot Petilla for the most part, at si Naidi (Zenaida) Monsada ang nagtapos nito. Tumulong ang lahat ng cooperatives para mangyari ito. Hindi naman ho puro tauhan ng gobyerno ang gumawa nito. Tumulong kayo sa Sitio Electrification Program. Tumutulong kayo palagi pag may bagyo at nagbagsakan ang linya. Kayo ang nagpapamadali ng panunumbalik ng kuryente."

The President added, "Doon po sa pinagtulong-tulungan natin—ulitin ko, hindi si Noynoy Aquino ang gumawa nito—kayo ho ang gumawa. Idamay na lang ninyo ako. Tayo ho ang gumawa ng tagumpay na ito, kaya maraming-maraming salamat sa inyo."

Accomplished within 4 ½ years beginning October 2011, SEP's crowning achievement has been to bring power to far-flung sitios in the country and leverage energy access as a platform to generate job opportunities for the rural Filipinos and bring social services closer to them.

Through the intercession of former DOE Secretary and NEA Board Chair Jose Rene D. Almendras to President Aquino, SEP was designated as one of the flagship projects of President Aquino, forming part of the Social Reform Agenda of his administration.

NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno said, "Through SEP, more people in the countryside are now able to enjoy the benefits of electricity and gain access to basic social services. More



IN THE NEWS

Power Task Force formed for Elections 2016 p. 3

NEA gathers power coops for National Legal Conclave p. 4

BATANELCO sets a first in rural electrification p. 6



Completed... from 1

rural folks are now empowered to improve their socio-economic well-being and make contributions to nation-building.”

She added, “SEP is one of the steps undertaken by this government in realizing inclusive growth. We thank the President for entrusting NEA and the ECs in carrying out his noble vision for the country.”

Since his assumption in 2010, President Aquino has lent unprecedented support to rural electrification initiatives through approval of necessary funds for implementation of SEP.

Under the President’s term, NEA has received a total of Php30.932 billion subsidy assistance from the national government, of which Php20.047 has been allocated for the implementation of SEP.

Consumer connection was raised to 11.259 million, with additional 440,360 consumers connected in 2015 and 84,434 connected from January 1 to February 29, 2016.

On an average basis, NEA and the ECs are connecting to the grid as many as 20 sitios daily, 605 monthly, 1,816 quarterly, and 7,264 annually.

Due to the need to fast-track SEP implementation, the program has also further strengthened the partnership of NEA and the ECs as reflected in their commitment to meet timelines in spite of natural and man-made calamities, especially during the onslaught of typhoons *Pablo*, *Yolanda*, and *Glenda* and the occurrence of the Zamboanga City siege and the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Bohol, to name a few.

Smooth project implementation was also a result of the proper coordination made with various government agencies, the local government units, and community leaders.

NEA remits dividends to national government

NEA has remitted a total of Php118.14 million to the national government as dividends due from NEA’s net earnings for Calendar Year 2015.

The state-run agency is among the first government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to pay the required dividends due the government during the GOCC Dividends Day held in Malacañang Palace on May 23, 2016.

His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III received the check from the NEA Board of Administrators headed by Department of Energy Secretary and NEA Board Chair Zenaida Y. Monsada.

Administrator Edita S. Bueno said, “Committed to the best practice of responsible citizenship, NEA endeavors to dutifully meet its financial obligations to the government every year. Contributing to the national coffers is part of the Agency’s continuing effort towards good governance and nation-building.”

Under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7656, otherwise known as the Dividend Law, GOCCs are required to declare

and remit at least 50% of their annual net earnings as dividends to the national government.

NEA’s operating income of Php738 million is Php194M lower than CY 2014’s operating income of Php 932 million. Net profit before income tax also decreased to Php327 million, or Php260 million lower than last year’s record of Php587 million.

NEA has also deposited Php92.972M to the account of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on April 13, 2016 for the Agency’s income tax due for 2015.

Likewise, through its strong fiscal discipline, NEA sustained its high collection efficiency, profitability, and debt servicing which can be further attested for eight consecutive years.

Further, for two consecutive years, NEA has been cited through the recommendation of COA as “Most Outstanding Accounting Office” in recognition of the timeliness, reliability and accuracy of the agency’s financial statements, as well as compliance to accounting rules and regulations.



Power Task Force formed for Elections 2016



Administrator Edita Bueno convenes members of the Task Force Election 2016 to firm up program of activities in ensuring adequate and reliable power supply for the May 9 elections. Inset photo shows the Administrator evaluating power status reports prepared by Deputy Administrator Edgardo Piamonte and Acting Department Manager Ferdinand Villareal.

No major power hitch reported in coops' coverage areas during election period

No major power hitch was reported within the electric cooperatives' coverage areas during the election period from May 2-14, 2016. This covers the National and Local Elections on May 9, 2016 and the Special Elections on May 14, 2016 in selected areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

NEA has closely monitored the power situation nationwide during the period through the Power Task Force Election 2016.

Reports from the coops show the occurrence of few outages caused by busted distribution transformer fuses, primary and secondary line faults, and defective fuse links. Incidence of these power interruptions was minimal and isolated, and services have been readily restored.

The state-run agency, in cooperation with the 120 ECs nationwide, worked with the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), and the National Power Corporation (NPC).

Administrator Edita S. Bueno said, "We would like to express our gratitude to all the ECs for actively participating in the conduct of the Power Task Force Election. Their dauntless commitment, timeless effort and relentless support have ensured adequate and reliable election power supply before, during and after the May 9, 2016 National and Local Elections."

Department of Energy Secretary and NEA Board Chair Zenaida Y. Monsada visited the NEA Command Center

NEA has created the "NEA Power Task Force Election 2016" in a move to join forces with the Department of Energy (DOE) and other Energy Family agencies to ensure adequate and reliable election power supply before, during and after the May 9, 2016 National and Local Elections.

This is also in response and compliance to the Energy Department Circular No. DC2016-01-001 wherein NEA is commissioned to oversee preparation of electric cooperatives (ECs) for the May 9 national and local elections and ensure the readiness and reliability of the distribution system; direct the ECs to ensure availability of technical personnel especially during Election Day and until the canvassing of votes; and ensure full cooperation of the ECs in all activities of the Power Task Force Election 2016.

Relatedly, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) issued Resolution No. 10023 deputizing, among others, NEA and the ECs, in connection with the May 9, 2016 National and Local Elections.

As such, they shall provide and maintain stable and continuous nationwide electric power requirements starting May 2, 2016 until the termination or conclusion of the canvassing of votes and the proclamation of the winning candidates.

Administrator Edita S. Bueno said, "NEA recognizes the important role of the electric cooperatives in the conduct of clean, orderly, peaceful and credible automated national and local elections. Hence, we strongly advised all ECs to guarantee reliable and stable supply of electric power and make assistance to COMELEC and its deputized agencies to be paramount over all activities during the election period."

"NEA also enjoined the ECs to closely

NEA gathers power coops for National Legal Conclave



Assistant Solicitor General Bernard Hernandez discusses the validity and legality of the empowerment of NEA through Republic Act 10531 during the National Legal Conclave held last May 19-20, 2016 at Hotel Novotel, Quezon City. Listening are NEA officials led by Administrator Edita Bueno and some 400 officials and staff of the electric cooperatives nationwide.

NEA has gathered 403 General Managers, Board Presidents, Legal Counsels, and Members of the Bids and Awards Committee of 93 electric cooperatives nationwide for the a National Legal Conclave at the Hotel Novotel in Araneta Center, Quezon City on May 19-20, 2016.

The conclave is aimed at updating the participants on EC operations under R.A. 10531 or the “National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013” and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR); creating more awareness about the emerging trends and jurisprudence in today’s energy scenarios; and further equipping the participants so as to meet the expectations and needs of the EC stakeholders.

Administrator Edita S. Bueno said, “Today’s electricity industry is complex with many rules and regulations that evolved through 48 years of the Rural Electrification Program. We have to be competent and strong to adapt to the ever changing environment in order to

succeed. We have to understand the legal implications and complications of government rules, civil laws and regulations.”

The legal conclave, according to the Administrator, is a form of consultation, one of NEA’s pillars which it had cultivated with the ECs to serve better the member-consumers in the countryside.

“NEA is your public servant. We are here to serve the ECs. But together, we have to do our share to make our country better. Let us move forward and support our new leaders,” the Administrator added.

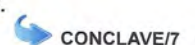
Keynote Speaker was Assistant Solicitor General Bernard G. Hernandez of the Office of the Solicitor General.

He said, “R.A. 10531 is constitutional and its empowerment of NEA is valid and legal. The recent national and local elections showed that the Filipino people want change. Certainly, under

R.A. 10531, NEA and the ECs will play an important role as facilitator of change and development in the rural areas”.

The conclave was highlighted by the election of Legal Officers Association, a first for the ECs. Among the elected officers were DANECO’s Atty. Jorge Rapista, President; ISECO’s Atty. Catherine Valencia, Vice President for Luzon; ILECO III’s Atty. Carol Espinosa, Vice President for Visayas; and SOCOTECO II’s Atty. Cherry Joie Ponce, Vice President for Mindanao.

The NEA Legal Team led by Deputy Administrator Rossan Rosero-Lee made an in-depth discussion on the provisions of R.A. 10531 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations; R.A. 9184 and NEA Procurement Guidelines; and Ailing ECs and Private Sector Participation. Deputy Administrator Goldelio Rivera of the Management Assistance Group, likewise, talked about NEA’s Key Performance Standards.



Electricity begins people's game of life

Admtr. Bueno speaks on governance initiatives of NEA with electric cooperatives

"We have to be strong for this country because it is the only one we have."

Thus said NEA Administrator Edita Bueno at the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) Fellows' Lunch where the Administrator gave a talk on the Corporate Governance Initiatives and Achievements of the NEA with the Electric Cooperatives last April 29, 2016 at the Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

Underscoring the importance of electrification as roads and bridges, Administrator Bueno said the NEA has already brought the gains of electricity to as many as 32,688 sitios in the country through the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP), surpassing the target by more than 247 and raising consumer connection to more than 11 million.

The average cost of electrifying one sitio, according to the Administrator, has also been brought down to Php613,432.26 from the original project cost of Php 1 million per sitio, allowing the NEA-EC partnership to cover as many as 20 energized sitios daily, 605 monthly, 1,816 quarterly, and 7,264 annually.

"Every time we are able to electrify a house or a sitio, there is that feeling that keeps you going because we know that

there are still more people to be served with electricity. Once people gain access to power, it is the start of their game of life," Administrator Bueno said.

The Administrator, in particular, cited the governance pathway it took to become an institution recognized for elevating the social plight of the rural Filipinos through its strict adherence to governance principles of action, fairness and transparency, and solidarity.

The Agency was hailed last year as an Island of Good Governance, the first government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) to do so, after passing a revalida and successfully showcasing breakthrough results in its major commitments in the public service sector.

In her talk, the Administrator also gave thanks to ICD and the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) Founding Chairperson Dr. Jesus Estanislao for introducing the NEA to the process of institutionalizing a governance framework which has demonstrated the Agency's will to deliver results and fulfill its commitment to the people.

"The governance system has helped the Agency sustain where it is now. I would admit that it was difficult in the beginning because people had comfort zones, and

they didn't want to be disturbed. But the ICD and ISA handheld us every step of the way in ensuring that the gains of the electrification program are sustainable and reflect the open partnership we have with our stakeholders," Administrator Bueno said.

"Every time, we are able to electrify a house or a sitio, there is that feeling that keeps you going... Once people gain access to power, it is the start of their game of life."

The mechanics for selecting and appointing an Independent Director for ECs was likewise discussed in the forum where the Administrator emphasized the importance of electing a good set of independent directors who can make effective decisions in matters concerning board governance, rate methodology, taxation, power supply contracting, changes in leadership, among others.

When asked about how the NEA intends to continue its programs and initiatives in view of continuing transitions in the government, the Administrator said "the Agency is preparing its people through long-term planning so that those who will come in will understand the electrification program."

She likewise mentioned how the institution has gained the admiration of politicians for not failing to attain its targets despite challenges from prevailing political structures in the country.

"I've had threats from politicians. But politicians will respect you if you don't give in. Ultimately, they will respect the responsibility of the institution to be upright in implementing its programs for the people," the Administrator added.



NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno (R) and NEA Board Member Fr. Jose Victor E. Lobjrigo (L) respond to questions from the audience during the ICD Fellows' Lunch held on April 29, 2016 at the Marco Polo Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Administrator Bueno and Fr. Lobjrigo emphasized the governance mechanisms of the NEA and its close partnership with the electric cooperatives in successfully implementing the Rural Electrification Program.



BATANELCO sets a first in rural electrification

The Batanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Batanelco) has set a first in the Rural Electrification Program with the construction of an underground distribution system (UDS) in the Island of Batan to address the power reliability and service efficiency concerns of the Province of Batanes.

The Batan Island Underground Distribution System (UDS) Project which runs along the four municipalities of the island namely: Basco, Mahatao, Uyugan and Ivana is a first construction scheme of its kind in the country. Through a feasibility study, the scheme was selected as the most practical and cost-efficient course of action given Batanes' unique topography and unpredictable weather condition.

The UDS has been studied as an alternative solution to Batanelco's perennial power reliability problem. It is an alternative way to reduce duration of power interruption to enhance reliability of the distribution system. It aims to lessen power interruptions due to strong winds and salt spray and rapid deterioration and replacement of insulated conductors. The underground system work includes building a whole new system while operating the existing service then dismantling the latter once the new one is up and running. The underground facilities are not vulnerable to wind and debris-blown damages.

A switch-on ceremony was held at the Batanes National Science High School in Basco, Batanes on April 24, 2016 along with the launching of a 24-hour power operation in the Island of Sabtang by the National Power Corporation. NPC supplies the power to Batanelco which in turn distributes electricity to the households in the islands.

In attendance during the milestone celebration were Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary



Batanes Congresswoman Henedina Abad (third from L) switches on the underground distribution system of Batan Island in Basco on April 24, 2016, a pioneer construction scheme in the country. With her are (R-L) DBM Secretary Florencio Abad, NPC President and CEO Gladys Cruz-Sta. Rita, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, and NEA Board Member Jose Victor Lobrigo.

Florencio B. Abad, Congresswoman Henedina R. Abad; National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Edita S. Bueno, and National Power Corporation (NPC) President and CEO Ma. Gladys Cruz-Sta. Rita.

NEA released the amount of Php109.459 million to Batanelco for the Batan Island UDS project. The funding is part of the Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP) of the Administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is undertaking the civil works including excavation, backfilling and restoration.

To date, the project is about 85% complete with 17.501 circuit kilometers energized and 6.46 circuit km. completed. Batanelco estimates full project completion by November 2016.

Secretary Abad said that government funds, if properly managed, will go a long way. Citing the absence of new tax measures except more health-related Sin Tax Law, the Secretary related the availability of more funds for

social and health services, education and infrastructure including energy and rural electrification.

The Secretary said, "We have to think 10-15 years ahead. We have to think of innovations. As the great scientist Albert Einstein once said, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge'. The underground distribution system is an innovation that is responsive to the needs of Batanes in the coming days".

Likewise, the Secretary commended NEA and the electric cooperatives, including Batanelco, for accomplishing on time the committed electrification of 32,441 sitios all over the country.

"Not only did they complete the Sitio Electrification Project on time but they were able to electrify more sitios with less fund spent," he added.

Administrator Bueno said, "We are fortunate and thankful that our national leaders and our President recognize the need of every Filipino for electricity service and provided the necessary support and funds to respond to this need. Every Filipino, the Ivatan included, deserves reliable service of electricity."

NEA, BISELCO break ground Lajala submarine cable project

About 300 residents of Uson Island in Coron will soon enjoy uninterrupted power supply after NEA and the Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO) broke ground last April 15, 2016 the Php19.61 million-Barangay Lajala Submarine Cable Project.

Inaugurated by guest of honor NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, the submarine cable project is funded through the 2014 subsidy of the Barangay Line Enhancement Program (BLEP) and will be made operational by the first week of August this year.

Administrator Bueno said, "Lahat ng Pilipino, kahit saang isla pa man 'yan, ay dapat magkaroon ng access sa kuryente. Sa kaso ng BISELCO na nasa recovery stage pa rin matapos daanan ng Yolanda, kailangan talagang tulungan ang inyong coop para makabangon at makapagserbisyo pa nang mas mabuti sa member-consumers."

Over Php100 million has been allocated for the coop's Rural Electrification projects according to the Administrator, and she hopes that the funds released "will translate to more opportunities for BISELCO to be a vital instrument in enabling a progressive Busuanga."

For her part, Coron Mayor Clara "Fems" Reyes said the project will boost further the tourism activities of the island known for its greenery and white-sand beaches.

She said the municipality is also currently in talks with other independent players to help install solar facilities in areas that are too far to be connected to the grid.

She said, "I hope Coron won't be forgotten. As long as our heart is for the people, nothing is going to be difficult."

Meanwhile, Administrator Bueno, together with former DOE Secretary Carlos Jericho Petilla and BISELCO General Manager Ruth Galang, also led the coop's ceremonial switch-on of the 97 sitios energized under the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) and the 15 barangays enhanced under BLEP.

GM Galang said, "Naibigay ng SEP at BLEP ang kuryente na matagal nang hinihintay sa Calamian Group of Islands. Dahil sa kuryente, umaangat na ang Coron, Culion, at Linapacan."

SEP and BLEP are interrelated electrification programs of the NEA

under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III which aim to facilitate and improve access of rural Filipinos to quality and efficient power supply.

Last March 31, the target of 32,441 energized sitios, with additional 247, was officially met by the NEA and its partner ECs. Meanwhile, a total of 722 enhanced barangay power distribution systems have already been accomplished by the same partnership from October 2011 to March 2016.

Conclave... from 4

Resource persons from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) namely: Atty. Marilyn Estaris spoke on Relevant COA Rules and Regulations and Atty. Aniceto Calubaquib, Jr. on Taxation Concerns.

The members of the Energy Family also lent their support to the activity. DOE OIC-Undersecretary Mylene Capongcol and Renewable Energy Management Bureau Assistant Director Marissa Cerezo addressed issues on DOE Circular No. DC2015-06-0008 "Mandating All DUs to Undergo Competitive Selection Process in Securing Power Supply Contracts and its Provisions" and Governing Rules in Renewable Energy Application, respectively.

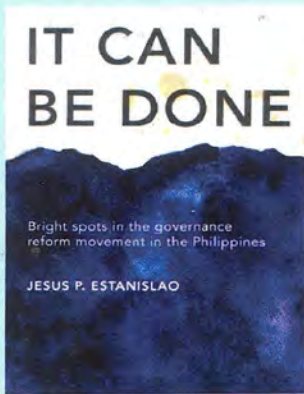
Meanwhile, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Director Floresinda Baldo-Digal and Engr. Glicerio Amparo, Jr. lectured about Power Supply Agreement -Existing Rules/Provisions and Application Processes Concerning PSA Approval and Rules Governing Tariff Glide Path. And, Philippine Electricity Market Corporation's (PEMC) Raymond Joseph Marqueses discussed WESM Compliance Requirement/ Status of Retail Competition and Open Access.



NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno (third from L), Coron Mayor Clara "Fems" Reyes (fourth from L), and BISELCO General Manager Ruth Galang (leftmost) lead the laying of time capsule for the inauguration of the Barangay Lajala submarine cable project. The 1.9 km submarine cable will deliver power from Barangay Poblacion 5 to Uson Island, Barangay Lajala, and is expected to be operational by the first week of August 2016.



NEA's success story featured as model of good governance



“The relationship of the NEA and the cooperatives has, therefore, never been seen as unidirectional; it has, to a large extent, been a collaborative one that is more so sustained by the foundational values of absolute honesty, maximum efficiency, and total solidarity.”

- EDITA S. BUENO

The book *It Can Be Done* by Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao is a compilation of success stories of different national and local government agencies and offices whose unique governance reforms continue to shape the landscape of Philippine public service. It is a proof that Philippine institutions found the will to transform themselves through long years of forging positive relationships with their stakeholders and taking a leadership role in effecting change. In the book, Dr. Estanislao rightly says, “leadership commitment to governance is an indispensable factor in every agency’s success”.

Featured in the book is NEA’s road to success as demonstrated by its accomplishment of three breakthrough results: (1) 100% energization of 32,441 sitios, (2) attainment of additional 1.4 million consumer connections, and (3) provision of Php5 billion financial assistance to the electric cooperatives (ECs). Crediting the success of NEA and the electric cooperatives to a culture of consultation they have formed, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno says, “The relationship of the NEA and the cooperatives has, therefore, never been seen as unidirectional; it has, to a large extent, been a collaborative one that is more so sustained by the foundational values of absolute honesty, maximum efficiency, and total solidarity.” The Administrator added that the book will be part of the materials that will be given to training directors, managers and staff of the Agency and the ECs.

Other stories featured were from the city governments of Balanga, Butuan, Dipolog, Mandaue, and Talisay. The book likewise featured transformation stories of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Trade and Industry, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, and the Philippine Heart Center—all adjudged as the first ‘Islands of Good Governance.’

The book launching was held on June 10, 2016 at the Bayanihan Center, Pasig.

Task Force... from 3

coordinate with the officials of public schools and buildings designated as polling places/centers and to secure that all electrical equipment, connections, lighting and other energy fixtures to be in good condition. We, likewise, urged them to coordinate with telecommunication offices in their areas to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the transmission and delivery of messages to all concerned offices throughout the election period,” she added.

NEA’s Power Task Force Election rendered round-the-clock operation to make certain the ECs provided adequate and reliable electric power in their respective coverage areas before, during, and after the May 9, 2016 elections. It was overseen by Deputy Administrator for Electric Distribution Utilities Services Edgardo Piamonte and chaired by Engineering Director Ferdinand Villareal.

Aside from the Engineering Department, personnel from the Information Technology and Communication Services Department, Human Resources and Administration Department, and Public Affairs Office were also tapped to lend support.

Elections... from 3

in Quezon City on Election Day to lend her support wherein she was apprised by Deputy Administrator Edgardo Piamonte on the power situation in ECs’ franchise areas. The Secretary congratulated the NEA Team for their vigilance and dedication to their civic duty.

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