



NEA, ECs celebrate 48 years of electrification in the country

Anchored on the theme "Ensuring the Gains of Rural Electrification through Enlightened Member-Consumer-Owners", NEA lined up a series of activities to celebrate the 8th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM) and the 48th NEA Founding Anniversary.



DOE Secretary Cusi with Senator Gatchalian, ASec Soriano and the NEA Board led by Administrator Masongsong, as they do the ceremonial Switch-On of the 12 Millionth Consumer Connection under the coverage area of Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Daneco).

The month-long celebration kicked-off on August 2 with opening ceremonies held at the NEA H.E.S. Auditorium in Quezon City. The festivities included a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by the Opening Ceremonies, a Ceremonial Switch-on of the 12 millionth consumer connection energized under the Rural Electrification Program (REP), and the formal opening of the Renewable Energy Investors Exhibit.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong led the opening ceremonies and was joined by Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, Assistant Secretary Jonas George Soriano from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, and representatives from different electric cooperatives nationwide.

In his message, Masongsong underscored the vital role of the state-owned corporation and its partner ECs in energizing the countryside, as he trumpeted the gains of the government's Rural Electrification Program. "Admittedly, the Rural Electrification Program needs to be continued and sustained," he said.

Since 1969, Masongsong said, the Rural Electrification Program through NEA and its partner ECs has energized 78 provinces, 90 cities, 1,385 municipalities, 36,051 barangays and 118,632 sitios as of May 31, 2017. This represents 83 percent of the sitios within the NEA and EC coverage areas.

NEA targets to energize 2,410 sitios this year and another 1,800 sitios in 2018, and the budget allotted by the government for the SEP is only PhP1.8 billion.

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12 Millionth electricity connection marks 8th National Electrification Awareness Month

NEA held a ceremonial "switch-on" event in Barangay Apokon, Tagum City on Friday, August 25, marking the 12 millionth consumer connection under the government's Rural Electrification Program.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong led the symbolic lighting of the 12 millionth household connection with the presence of House Speaker and Davao del Norte 1st District Representative Pantaleon Alvarez.

The 12 millionth rural electricity connection beneficiary is Rocie Donggon, a member of indigenous Lumad community in Barangay Apokon, Tagum City, which is within the coverage area of the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Daneco).

Administrator Masongsong described the 12 millionth household connection as another huge milestone for NEA, which recently marked its 48th founding anniversary.



Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez leads the ceremonial lighting of the 12 Millionth Consumer Connection at the house of Ms. Rocie Donggon (right) in Barangay Apokon, Tagum City. Administrator Masongsong witnesses the occasion.

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EC loans, electrification projects get lion's share of PhP4.9-B NEA proposed budget for 2018

NEA proposed a total of PhP4.9-billion budget for 2018, majority of which shall be used to fund long- and short-term loans for the electric cooperatives' (ECs) capital expenditure (capex) requirements and other electrification projects.

This is based on the approved National Expenditure Program (NEP) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that was presented before the members of the House Committee on Appropriations during a preliminary deliberation on August 17.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said the DBM-recommended corporate operating budget will allow them to work on the following targets next year:

- energization of 1,817 sitios;
- construction of power distribution lines for resettlement areas in Zamboanga City;
- establishment of a quick response fund during calamities;
- connection of additional 460,000 consumers;
- reduction of system loss to 10.70 percent;
- collection efficiency of 99 percent;
- release of PhP1.7-billion loans to the ECs; and
- realization of a net margin from the agency's financial operation

"Accordingly, the sitio electrification level would increase to 86 percent by the end of 2018 from 83 percent in 2016," Masongsong said, adding this could even go up to 89 percent should the 17th Congress consider expanding their budget to PhP5.22-billion.

Of the PhP4.9-billion corporate budget, PhP1.96-billion will be subsidized by the national government while the remaining PhP2.94-billion will be sourced from the internally generated funds of the agency.

The state subsidy will be used to finance the remaining sitio electrification projects and the construction of distribution lines in resettlement sites for the victims of natural and man-made calamities including those displaced by the 2013 Zamboanga siege.

NEA seeks tax exemptions for power coops under its charge

NEA is finding ways to free the 121 electric cooperatives (ECs) it supervises from paying taxes under House Bill 5636 or the proposed Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act of President Rodrigo Duterte.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said they are currently working with rural electrification advocates from both the executive and legislative branches of government to turn this hope into reality.

This is to even things out with the ECs registered under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), which enjoy such privileges per the provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.

The state-owned corporation tasked to implement rural electrification in the Philippines is trying to get the Department of Justice's (DOJ) support on its position that the same law could be applied to power coops under the NEA management too.

"We are looking forward to have the favorable opinion of the DOJ that the electric cooperatives registered with NEA be tax-exempt as well," Masongsong said during a recent media forum in Quezon City last July 27, 2017.

The NEA chief mentioned that Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the

Masongsong: NEA draws up new policy to fast-track rural electrification

In response to the call of President Rodrigo Duterte to provide electricity access for every household, a new policy that would fast-track the energization of rural and remote areas in the country is underway.



Senators Sherwin Gatchalian and Loren Legarda put emphases on adopting the latest technologies and encouraging the private sector participation in order to better implement the RE Program

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong made the statement on September 14 when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Finance, chaired by Sen. Loren Legarda, to present the state-owned corporation's PhP4.9-billion proposed budget for fiscal year 2018.

During the hearing, Legarda said private sector participation should be encouraged for the agency to achieve its goal of completing the rural electrification program of the government before President Duterte steps down in 2022.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, likewise urged NEA to take advantage of latest technologies, such as the micro-grid systems, to reach far-flung areas that have no access to power grid and still remain unserved.

Gatchalian also mentioned there are some private distribution utilities that have already expressed interest in building micro-grid systems in areas or sitios left unserved or underserved by the electric cooperatives (ECs).

"Micro-grid systems are now available here in the Philippines and we can take advantage of this to fill in the gap dahil hindi talaga mabigyan ng pera 'yung sitio electrification program. Pero kung merong opportunity for the private sector to come in, then, let's embrace it," he said.

Masongsong said the NEA is preparing a policy that would fast-track the implementation of rural electrification to maximize, among others, micro-grid and solar home systems, as well as access to sustainable energy program. It will be presented to the 121 ECs.

NEA is audit compliant anew

After clarifying some issues pertaining to its 2015 financial statement, the Commission on Audit (COA) once again declared the National Electrification Administration (NEA) as compliant with government transparency standards.

The NEA was rendered an unqualified opinion for calendar year 2016 based on the latest COA Independent Auditor's Report (IAR). This enabled the agency to keep its reputable standing among state-owned corporations.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong welcomed this development especially since the NEA espouses absolute honesty as one of its corporate values. "We appreciate this opinion by COA and rightly so because we are building on the best practices of the former administration," he said.

"As we continue to advocate good public governance, trust that the NEA and the 121 ECs nationwide will remain assiduous in carrying out their collective mandate to stay on par with our state auditors' expectations," Masongsong added.

The report signed by OIC Supervising Auditor Glorina Suson last May 23 covered the transactions, accounts and operations of the NEA for 2016 to determine the level of assurance that may be placed on the management's assertions on its financial performance

Also considered was the propriety of the transactions as well as its adherence to the existing rules, regulations and policies of the organization, and the extent of the implementation of prior year's audit recommendations.

Web portal and business intelligence system launched

NEA on August 14 launched its new web portal and business intelligence system geared towards improving efficiency to better supervise the different electric cooperatives (ECs) across the country.



Adm. Masongsong and Indra Phils, Head of Business Consulting Mr. Victor Anthony Castrillo (3rd from left) officially launch the NEA-BIT Project on August 14. Looking on are Deputy Administrators Sonia San Diego, Goldelio Rivera and Artis Nikki Tortola. (Inset) NEA and Beneco "Go Live" with the pilot system run.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said the system, dubbed as NEA Business Intelligence Technology or NEA BIT, was a result of the collaboration between the state agency and the ECs through discovery and design sessions which started in 2015.

"Principally, the technology aims to address the current situation and progress towards strategies to assist ECs in rural electrification," Masongsong said during the official launch of NEA BIT at the NEA H.E.S. Auditorium in Quezon City.

"The system provides historical, current, and predictive views of the EC's business operations. The information generated will assist NEA in gaining timely and holistic analysis on the EC's current state and performance. Thus, opening opportunities for generation of strategic interventions," he added.

"The system marks another milestone for the NEA. I have no doubt that this web portal will empower NEA in providing better interventions to the ECs in the realization of the rural electrification and sustainable development," he said.

The first phase of the implementation of the NEA BIT went live on August 14, which covers the monthly institutional reports and project monitoring reports specifically on the Status of Energization, Sitio Electrification Program and the Barangay Line Enhancement Program.

With NEA BIT, Masongsong said, there will be faster turnaround time for EC data submission and NEA feedback; and the updates will be available in the web portal. There will also be reduced human intervention in the reports with the elimination of manual encoding thus increases the reports' reliability.

The project was made possible through the support of World Bank and IT firm, Indra.



NEA celebrates ... from page 1

Masongsong said from 2011 to 2016, NEA has energized 32,441 sitios and is on track to energize the remaining 23,681 sitios under the SEP.

Another highlight of the celebration on August 2 was the visit of the representatives from different ECs nationwide to the House of Representatives in Quezon City.

Accompanied by Masongsong and other officials of NEA, leaders of the various ECs' and member-consumer-owner (MCO) organizations paid separate courtesy calls on House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, House Majority Leader Rudy Fariñas, and House Energy Committee Chairman Lord Allan Jay Velasco.

During the visit, National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO) National Chairman Akmad Mamalinta submitted their legislative proposals and policy papers which will benefit the electrification sector, including the proposed amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 or EPIRA, the establishment of the Lineman Training Academy, and the creation of the charter for electric cooperatives.

"The electric cooperatives and the member-consumer-owners presented a policy paper and legislative agenda for the consideration of Congress. We had a healthy conversation with the Speaker and the chairman of the Committee on Energy, as well as the Majority Floor Leader. We expect good development," Mamalinta said.

Among the ECs' and MCO organizations which joined the House visit were the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Associations, Inc. (PHILRECA), the Philippine Federation of Electric Cooperatives (PhilFECCO), the Electric Consumers Advocacy of the Philippines (ECAP), the National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (NAGMEC), and the NCECCO.

NCECCO is comprised of the Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors Association, Inc. (RECOBODA), Association of Board of Directors of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

NEAM Snapshots



Top to bottom: (1) Administrator Masongsong addresses the members of the tri-media in the Usaping Balita on July 27; (2) The Administrator with his deputies in the launching of the Press Working Area on August 1; and (3) NEA employees gamely pose at the Gound Lobby Art Structure

Top to bottom: (1) With the Administrator are the resource persons of the Renewable Energy Investors and Businesses Conference and Exhibit on August 3; (2) Participants in the Electricity Forum listen intently to Administrator Masongsong; and (3) The NEA-BOA during the occasion on August 4 at the NEA-H.E.S.A., Quezon City

(ABDEC), Mindanao Coalition of Power Consumers (MCPC), No to Excessive Authority Advocate for Consumer Owners Movement (NEAADCOM), National League of Electric Cooperative Member-Consumer- Owners (NL-EC-MCO), Consumer Advocate for Rural Energy of Zamboanga Peninsula, Inc. (CAREZPI), and League of Electric Consumers Advocate for Reform and Empowerment of the Society (LeCARES).

NEAM is celebrated annually every month of August in accordance with Proclamation Order No. 1743 and is spearheaded by the NEA. The event is in recognition of the vital significance of the electrification program in nation building.

12 Millionth electricity... from page 1

"This connection is a landmark achievement of the rural electrification movement and an auspicious event in the program, not only because we are celebrating the 8th National Electrification Awareness Month, but also because this represents the compassion of the Duterte administration by bringing electricity services to the poorest of our countrymen," the NEA chief said.

From 2011 to 2016, Masongsong said NEA had successfully completed the electrification of 32,441 sitios under the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP). The agency is targeting to energize 2,410 sitios this year and another 1,800 sitios in 2018, the administrator added.

NEAM Snapshots



Top to bottom: (1) About a thousand representatives of ECs & NEA flock the gallery of the House of Representatives to show force in pursuit of the RE Program; (2) NEA, EC & the Legislative Branch are one in the Program; and (3) NCECCO National Chairman Ret. General Akmad Mamalinta hands over to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, as witnessed by Administrator Masongsong, the proposed policy papers and legislative agenda for consideration of Congress.

Top to bottom: (1) NEA employees take a break in their daily tasks to recharge their energies during the Wellness and Health Forum and Fair; (2) Dir. Leila B. Bonifacio (right) presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Nigel Jerome Cunanan (2nd from left) as resource person in the health forum; and (3) the 10 finalists of the Essay Writing Contest with their certificates

NEA seeks tax ... from page 2

Senate Committee on Energy and his counterpart in the Lower House, Marinduque Representative Lord Allan Jay Velasco, have been involved in these discussions along with the Departments of Energy and Finance.

According to Chapter 3, Section 13 of RA 10531, the law governing the NEA, all non-stock and non-profit rural energy distribution utilities are entitled to preferential rights granted to cooperatives under the Local Government Code of 1991 and other related laws.

“As a further incentive, the NEA may prioritize the grant of incentives in favor of electric cooperatives that are managed effectively and efficiently and comply consistently with its mandates and directives,” RA 10531 added.

Masongsong: NEA ... from page 2

“Electric cooperatives should fast-track electrification and should open up through installation of micro-grids, allowing private distribution utilities should they be interested to energize an area, as well as maximizing solar home system and access to sustainable energy program,” Masongsong told the senators.

“Your policy is most welcome. That will change the whole landscape and we hope the policy will be in favor of the poor, unelectrified, unserved, underserved communities in the country,” Legarda said.

The rural electrification agency is seeking a Php4.9-billion budget next year, with the bulk of it allocated to fund long- and short-term loans for the capital expenditure requirements of the ECs’ and other power distribution projects.

QUEZELCO II holds... from page 7

This year's AGMA, which carried the theme *"Sulong! Quezelco II, Sa Pagtutulungan Aasenso, Makabagong Sistemang Hatid sa Miyembro, Tiyak ang Pagbabago,"* was held at the Infanta Town Hall Plaza last July 8.

The recorded attendance was equivalent to nine percent of the total membership.

Gracing the occasion as guest speaker was NEA chief Edgardo Masongsong, who commended Quezelco II for its exemplary accomplishments in the past year.

Quezelco II received several recognitions at the Lumens Awards held in Tagum City last April 28, including AAA EC Award, Single Digit System Loss for the Year, NEA's Top Partner in Capacity Building Program, and EC with Fully Liquidated Subsidy Fund for Rural Electrification.

The EC was also recognized for its active participation in the Task Force Kapatid in the aftermath of Typhoon 'Nina'.

In his speech, Masongsong also presented the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO) as a movement that seeks to unite and empower all the electricity consumers nationwide, and the plan to establish an EC consumers' bank. The MCOs present at the AGMA were also sworn in as NCECCO members.

Quezelco II distributes electricity to eight municipalities in the province of Quezon. Included in its franchise area are the following: Infanta, Real, Gen. Nakar, Polillo, Burdeos, Panukulan, Patnanungan, Jomalig.

NEA chief leads ceremonial switch-on of SEP in Surigao del Sur

BISLIG CITY, Surigao del Sur –NEA Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong on July 20 spearheaded the switch-on ceremony for the electrification of sitios within the coverage area of the Surigao del Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Surseco I) during the distribution utility's 46th founding anniversary celebration.

Masongsong was assisted by Energy Undersecretary Benito Ranque, Surseco I General Manager Joceler Moralda, and the Board of Directors led by President Pacinta Saligumba. The switch-on ceremony was held at Surseco I's newly inaugurated Member-Consumer-Owners (MCO) Center in San Fernando, Bislig City.

In his address, Masongsong thanked Surseco I for helping NEA in its continuing efforts to bring light to the sitios or far-flung areas in different parts of the country under the government's so-called Sitio Electrification Program.

Isolated no more: NEA vows to connect off-grid sitios

Knowing that energy connectivity makes a world of difference in the lives of rural Filipinos, the NEA is bent on reaching out to far-flung villages that remain isolated from the grid.

One of these is Sitio Ayoke, a small fishing village off the coast of General Island in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, which the NEA plans to formally energize by setting up a submarine power cable system.

The proposed infrastructure will connect the island community either straight to the main power grid of Surigao del Sur II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Surseco II) in Tandag City or passing it through the Libtong Cove in General Island.

The end goal is to provide Sitio Ayoke access to electricity without relying too much on renewable energy sources. At the moment, the island community depends on its solar panels for power whose upkeep proved to be quite a challenge on the part of its residents.

According to village councilor Analou Lumapguid, the batteries of their solar panels right now could only store 60 percent of energy, which is definitely not enough to get them through the night. She and majority of her constituents thus welcome the establishment of power lines.

NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki Tortola and key personnel of Surseco II visited Sitio Ayoke recently to test its feasibility for possible installation of an undersea power cable.

This move is in line with the directive of the NEA



Administrator Masongsong, together with the members of the SURSECO I Board of Directors, during the ceremonial lighting of sitios in the coop's coverage area

"Ang rural electrification ay kailangan ipagpatuloy kasi hindi pa ito tapos. Kahit na almost 100 percent na ang inyong electrification sa inyong mga sitios," Masongsong said. Citing Surseco I's data, he added, there are only 2,000 households that remain unenergized within the cooperative's franchise area.

"The rural electrification is not just about construction of lines reaching the last household in our franchise area; it's about social and economic development in the countryside; it's about sustainable rural development through rural electrification," the NEA chief stressed.



Administrator Masongsong speaks before the members of SURSECO II during its 34th Annual General Membership Assembly

Administrator to pursue total electrification up to the last household in far-flung communities.

"We need to continue our rural electrification program because it is not yet complete until we have energized the last remaining household," Administrator Masongsong said in previous press conference organized in Surigao del Sur.

"The government prioritizes total electrification of the countryside focusing on the energization of households. No single sitio must be left unelectrified. All must have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of electricity," Tortola told the residents of Sitio Ayoke on July 21, 2017.

Ayoke Island currently has an estimated population of over 500 and 96 households. It is among the sitios the NEA aims to fully energize this year or by 2018 under the second phase of its SEP.

NEA enjoins Zaneco to become a world-class distribution utility

DAPITAN CITY, Zamboanga del Norte—With every triumph comes fresh responsibility and this is what the NEA gave the Zamboanga del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Zaneco) on its 45th anniversary last August 23, 2017.

While lauding Zaneco for already enduring a number of challenges in the past, NEA Head Executive Assistant Vicar Loureen Lofranco at the same time urged the electric cooperative (EC) to keep on improving itself in preparation for future obstacles.

Zaneco recently wrapped up its two-day anniversary rites in its Piñan Area Office, where Lofranco delivered an inspirational message on behalf of NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong.

In her speech, Lofranco recognized the admirable business exploits of Zaneco's founders, surviving one power crisis after another, which enabled their institution to become one of the top-performing ECs in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Echoing its anniversary theme "45 Years of

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Quezelco II holds 35th Annual General Membership Assembly

The Quezon II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Quezelco II) conducted its 35th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA), which gathered over 2,956 member-consumer-owners (MCOs) from eight municipalities within its franchise area.



Administrator Masongsong goes around to attend EC annual general membership assemblies including in the 35th Quezelco II AGMA to provide inspiration and promote the RE Program and NEA's 7-point agenda

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2017 Powertrends Exhibit September 27 to 29, 2017, SMX Convention Center, Manila



DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi accommodates questions of media as USec Felix William Fuentebella looks on (center photo). NEA officers generously answer queries from guests during the three-day exhibit.

Flexible payment program earns Davao del Norte power coop's prodigal consumers

The Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Daneco) under NEA has taken a step forward in improving its collection efficiency by offering a flexible payment scheme to their member-consumer-owners having difficulties paying their energy bills and facing disconnection.

Board Director Rey Nagar of the Task Force (TF) Duterte-Northern Davao Power (NDP) reported an improvement in the cooperative's collection over the past three months since the "balik loob" program was aggressively imposed in May.

The EC's monthly collection has posted at Php350 million since May, a Php60 million increase from the Php290 million collection in April this year, the official said.

The "balik loob" program, Nagar said, aimed at giving delinquent Daneco member-consumer-owners (MCOs) an opportunity to settle their past due electricity bills via flexible terms when they cannot pay in full, taking into consideration their financial condition.

However, those who refuse to settle their accounts, particularly the prominent ones with unpaid electricity bills worth Php100,000 and up, after receiving a demand letter from the EC will be made subject to appropriate legal actions, he said.

In Tagum area alone, Nagar said, about 11,000 households have past due amounts on their electricity bills.



Edgardo Masongsong
NEA Administrator

Meanwhile, Administrator Masongsong praised the efforts of Daneco-NEA, which he said will soon be called the Northern Davao Light and Power Cooperative, for "going aggressive" on collecting outstanding consumer accounts.

"I laud the Task Force Duterte-Northern Davao Power for their creativity in coming up with an initiative to lure back former consumers and taking bold steps to address the problems besetting the electric cooperative," the NEA chief said.

Daneco covers the provinces of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley including the cities of Tagum and Island Garden City of Samal, serving 162,000 MCOs. The electric cooperative also provides electricity to 16 municipalities.



100 percent sitio electrification eyed by 2022

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) is targeting 100 percent electrification of sitios across the country by 2022.

Speaking at the 5th Annual Philippines Power and Electricity Week held at Paranaque City on 19 July 2017, NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong said that from 2011 to 2016, the agency has completed the energization of 32,441 target sitios.

Masongsong said 23,464 sitios in the country have yet to be energized through the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP), and the cost to electrify one sitio is more or less Php1 million.

To enable NEA and its partner electric cooperatives to meet the target of energizing the remaining intended SEP beneficiaries, Masongsong said an estimated budget of Php5 billion a year is needed.

The state agency aims to energize 2,410 sitios this year and 1,800 sitios in 2018. The funding allotted by the Department of Budget and Management for the SEP next year is only P1.8 billion, he said.

"We hope that from 2019 to 2022, we will be getting between Php4.8-billion to Php5.2-billion per annum so we will be able to energize all these sitios until 2022," Masongsong said.

"By 2022," according to the former party-list representative, "we hope that the last household will be served with electricity."

During the conference, Masongsong also discussed the challenges faced by the agency and the 121 ECs in the implementation of the rural electrification program, foremost of which is the devastation in the wake of natural disasters.

He also talked about the initiatives being undertaken by the NEA to improve the financial and operational performance of the 10 ECs identified as "ailing." He likewise presented the five-point electricity agenda of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Apart from Masongsong, Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentesbello and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, were also among the invited speakers at the conference.

NEA enjoins ZANECO ... from page 7



The NEA Lights and Sounds Chorale in their soulful rendition of Tayo'y Pinoy.

Continuously Attaining a Better Zaneco," however, the NEA official acknowledged that there is still a lot of work to be done before it could turn itself into a globally-competitive power distribution firm.

"Zaneco is certainly not exempted from the challenges and tribulations that beset electric cooperatives all over the country. You look back to 45 years of Zaneco and you realize there is a need to continuously work for its betterment," Lofranco said in her Anniversary Message to Zaneco.

"The NEA calls on Zaneco to become a world-class distribution utility with empowered member-consumer-owners or MCOs. An empowered Zaneco is an EC which is financially sound, operationally efficient and institutionally strong," she added.

Lofranco said the state-run agency is counting on reliable ECs like Zaneco to deliver the five-point electricity agenda of President Rodrigo

Duterte so that more Filipino families in the countryside can be lifted out of gloom.

On the eve of Anniversary, Zaneco held a tribute concert for Ms. Purita Sumbilon, one of the pioneer members of its Board of Directors. The 80-year old retiree said she is deeply grateful for this gesture and would like to share the honor to her departed colleagues.

The concert lasted for nearly four hours featuring back-to-back performances from the Zaneco Power Band and the NEA Lights and Sounds Chorale with special numbers from El Spiral Fire Dancers and the Flare Tenders at the Carezpi Covered Court of the same Piñan Area Office.

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