



NEA reaffirms commitment to total electrification

Power co-ops urged to double efforts in energizing rural, remote areas

With over two million Filipino households still having no access to electricity in the country, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) has reaffirmed its commitment to accelerate the implementation of the government's total electrification program.

NEA urged the ECs to increase their efforts in reaching the country's remote and rural areas that have not been energized yet.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong made the call at the gathering of general managers of different ECs together with the different EC organizations namely the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc., (PHILRECA), National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives, (NAGMEC) and the Central Luzon Electric Cooperatives Association (CLECA) on October 4 to discuss the progress of the government's total electrification program.



Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong emphasizes the importance of responding to the call of total electrification and enjoins all ECs to double efforts to realize this goal.

As of end-August 2018, the Administrator said the overall level of consumer connections within the 121 ECs' coverage areas nationwide has reached 12,540,639 or 83 percent.

The NEA chief, however, said the ECs need to do more to electrify the areas that remain unlit. He noted that of the 121 ECs supervised by the agency, 53 ECs fell below 90 percent energization level.

"So it's a challenge. What can we, as a movement of electric cooperatives, do to help our sister electric cooperatives to fast-track energization?" Masongsong said. "We need to help each other."

NEA welcomes bicam approval of EVOSS Act

NEA welcomed the passage of the "Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop" bill at the bicameral conference committee level.

In a statement, Administrator Masongsong said the approval of the measure was very timely, citing the ever increasing energy demand in the country.

"This measure comes at a time when energy supply is at its highest demand historically due to increased economic activity in the rural areas and the government's hastened capital outlay expenditure primarily for public infrastructure construction," Masongsong said.

"Aside from further satisfying the accelerated power demands being distributed by electric cooperatives in the provinces, this measure when enacted into law will insulate the country from unexpected shocks from the dynamics of the global market and ensure energy security, especially in developing regions of the country," the NEA chief added.

▶ page 2

The Administrator outlined a number of strategies that the ECs may consider to speed up the electrification of areas within their respective coverage areas that are still without power, aside from maximizing the government subsidy.

These include accessing the Energy Regulation No. 1-94 program, availing grants and donations, using EC's internally generated funds (IGFs), through qualified third

▶ page 5

What's Inside?

PSA-MIMAROPA commends NEA	p. 2
NEA, EC collaborate to speed up approval of EC CapEx	p. 3
News Around the ECs	pp. 4-5
IN FOCUS: PALECO	



NEA grants P1.8B loans to ECs; hits full-year target ahead of schedule

NEA, in the effort to help ECs provide continuous and better delivery of service to their MCOs, extended varied loan services to ECs, reaching its full-year loan availment target of P1.7 billion three months ahead of schedule IN 2018.

A total of P1.8 billion worth of loans, including calamity loans has been extended to 57 ECs as of end-September 2018 based on the data from the NEA Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD).

The Agency released a total of P1.049 billion to 45 ECs to finance capital expenditure projects and P99 million to six other ECs for the repair and rehabilitation of damaged distribution facilities due to previous typhoons Lawin, Urduja and Vinta, and other calamities.

"In times of calamities, the NEA provides on time calamity loan as financial assistance to the ECs in order to repair damaged distribution system and restore immediately power supply to their member-consumer-owners (MCOs)," said Atty. Vicar Loureen G. Lofranco, Acting Deputy Administrator of the NEA Corporate Resources and Financial Services (CRFS).

A calamity loan offered by the NEA has a 10-year repayment term with a maximum grace period of one year and interest rate of 3.25 percent per annum.

Meanwhile, the Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Quezelco I) borrowed P20 million to finance its monthly shortfall on the settlement of power accounts with generation companies and the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

The Zamboanga Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO), on the other hand, availed of the stand-by credit loan facility for power accounts to strengthen its creditworthiness with generation companies and market operator amounting to P145 million.

In addition, the NEA awarded P134-million in loans to four ECs for the procurement of modular generator sets and nine other ECs secured working capital loans totaling P374 million.

Loan availment by the ECs is included in the fast-track lane being implemented by the NEA. The processing time is 24 working days for regular loans, 13 days for short-term loans and seven days for calamity loans.#

EVOSS Act . . . from page 1

On December 6, 2018, the Senate Committee on Energy and the House Committee on Energy agreed to adopt Senate Bill No. 1439, which seeks to streamline the permitting process of power generation, transmission and distribution projects through the establishment of an online system called the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop or EVOSS.

Once enacted into law, EVOSS is seen to accelerate the permitting process for energy projects and to cut red tape in the government. Under the bill, EVOSS will be managed by the DOE while its operations will be determined and monitored by a Steering Committee.

Senate Committee on Energy chairman Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian is optimistic that the bill will "drive down electricity costs and provide significant savings to power consumers by modernizing and streamlining the permitting process behind power infrastructure projects." #

NEA hits new electricity connections target in 10 months

NEA has already achieved its target of 460,000 new electricity consumer connections for 2018.

As of October 2018, new consumer connections reached 460,954 based on the data released by the NEA Information Technology and Communication Services Department (ITCSD).

This means that the 460,000 corporate target for the whole year has already been met and surpassed two months ahead of schedule.

ECs registered an average monthly consumer connection of 46,095 from January to October 2018.

Elated over this achievement, Administrator Masongsong commended all the ECs for their hard work and efforts in helping the Agency reach the target before year-end.

"The fact that we have reached our corporate target ahead of schedule reflects the strong commitment of both the NEA and the ECs to bring power to rural parts of the country, especially those hard-to-reach and poverty-stricken sitios," Masongsong said.

The new consumer connections recorded within the 121 ECs' coverage areas brought the total count to 12,647,446 since the government's Rural Electrification Program began in 1969 nearing the target of total electricity consumer connections to 13 million in 2019. #

PSA-MIMAROPA commends NEA

The Philippine Statistics Authority-MIMAROPA commends NEA as one responsive agency in providing various statistics on rural electrification during the conduct of the Workshop on Administrative Data Collection held in Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro last December 13, 2018.



NEA was cited for its unwavering support in the provision of inputs for PSA's various statistical needs such as the computation of regional economic indicators and performance, publications and databases.

The plaque was handed by Ms. Leni R. Rioflorido, Regional Director and Ms. Maribel L. Bernardo, Division Chief. Present to receive

the plaque of commendation were Ms. Leilani L. Rico and Mr. Jovani B. Lagon, both from the Database Management and Program Control Division. #



Ms. Leilani Rico and Mr. Jovani B. Lagon of ITCSD in a photo op with (L to R) Ms. Maribel L. Bernardo, NEDA Representative, and Regional Director Leni R. Rioflorido during the awarding ceremony.

NEA holds public consultation; fast-tracks drafting of IRR on EC emergency fund law

On October 24, 2018, a Legal Summit and Public Consultation on the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11039, also known as the



Atty. Vic Alvaro, Committee Chairperson on the IRR expertly discusses the salient provisions of R.A. 11039 or the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund Act of 2018.

"Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund Act was held at the NEA H.E.S Auditorium in Diliman, Quezon City.

This was in response to the call of the Senate Committee on Energy chairman Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian to speed up the formulation of the IRR.

Said activity gathered 105 participants, composed of general managers, directors

and legal officers from 63 ECs across the country to discuss the salient provisions of RA 11039 and seek their views and comments on the draft IRR that will pave the way for the full implementation of the law.

The crafting of the IRR was done in a series of consultation meetings with the Department of Energy, particularly with the Energy Policy and Planning Bureau to gather their inputs on October 17, according to Atty. Vic Alvaro, Department Manager for Management and Consultancy Services and Chairperson of the Committee for the IRR

"After consolidating all the inputs from the different stakeholders, the NEA is confident that it can come out with the IRR of the ECERF Law by November 2018 in compliance with Section 15 of RA 11039," Atty. Alvaro said.

Passed into law on June 29, RA 11039 provides an orderly and continuing means of financial assistance to ECs in the form of grants for disaster mitigation, preparedness and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure after a fortuitous event or force majeure.

Under the law, the NEA will manage and administer the ECERF, which will have an

▶ page 8

NEA, ERC collaborate to speed up approval of EC CapEx projects

On November 9, NEA met with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to discuss the possible initiatives aimed at fast-tracking the approval of the ECs' capital expenditure (CapEx) projects.

Administrator Masongsong and ERC Chairperson Agnes Devanadera, together with other officials talked about the adoption of a planning tool called "enhanced Integrated Computerized Planning Model (e-ICPM)".

The Administrator said the program, originally ICPM, was started by the NEA in early 2000s and has undergone numerous improvements over the years.

"This has been perfected through the years," the NEA chief said.

NEA Rural Electrification Project Planning and Development Division Manager Luisa Hernandez explained that the e-ICPM is a homegrown software that helps ECs in crafting their two-year work plan, which includes their CapEx projects.

"The e-ICPM is a computer software designed to integrate and harmonize most of the data required from the ECs using MS Office Platform and Visual Basic," Hernandez said.

NEA, Toshiba sign MoU on hydrogen energy system development



Admtr. Masongsong and Toshiba Corporate Sr. Vice President Fumio Otani during the MoU Signing Ceremony; Present to witness the MoU signing were (L-R, back row) Engr. Ernesto Silvano of TEREDD, Deputy Admtr for Technical Services Engr. Artis Nikki Tortola, Toshiba Philippines President Tomoo Kobayashi, and Sales and Marketing Manager Ko Yamamoto

NEA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japanese firm Toshiba Energy Systems and Solutions Corp. to collaborate on the development of the first self-sufficient hydrogen energy system in the country. The MoU was signed by NEA Administrator Masongsong and Toshiba's Corporate Senior Vice President Fumio Otani on October 15 in a simple ceremony held at the NEA headquarters in Quezon City.

Under the MoU, NEA and Toshiba agreed to jointly explore the opportunity to construct H2One, an autonomous energy supply system that uses renewable energy to produce hydrogen and generate electricity, in one of the off-grid areas in the country.

The project includes grant funding from the Japanese government to conduct a feasibility study for the potential installation of the system in selected off-grid areas not connected to the main power grid covered by the electric cooperatives (ECs).

The Administrator said, *"as the country grapples with the realities of rogue weather and climate change, and with clean energy offering a viable alternative to the long-dependend upon fossil fuels in power generation, the advent of these technologies in*

▶ page 7

the possible initiatives aimed at fast-tracking the

The program is composed of four components namely, load forecast, technical, financial, and institutional.

ERC Commissioner Josefina Patricia Asirit described e-ICPM as a "good tool," noting that the ERC was part of the original group to "ensure that regulatory requirements were considered."

Other concerns discussed were the harmonization of NEA-ERC definitions and formulas, and the NEA Business Intelligence Technology (BIT) system.

ERC Commissioners Catherine Maceda and Alexis Lumbatan also joined Chairperson Devanadera during the meeting.#

NEA wants EC-to-EC rehab plan for financially distressed power utilities

Saying that ECs must live up to the definition of the word “cooperative”, Administrator Masongsong strongly encouraged all community-owned power distribution utilities to work together and pool their resources in aid of struggling ECs.

The NEA Chief made the statement at the 3rd Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Amreco) Annual General Membership Assembly and Summit in Cagayan de Oro City, where he outlined anew the continuing challenges facing the rural electrification sector, including the need to address persistent complaints of inefficiency among underperforming ECs.



Administrator Masongsong calls on the officers and members of the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives to provide the needd support of member-ECs in distress.

The Administrator expressed his desire for well-off ECs to help the government find more creative solutions to the lingering problems besetting the industry, including the constant threat of a private company taking over the franchise of an ailing EC as in the case of the Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO), which is presently being managed and operated by Albay Power and Energy Corp. (APEC), and the Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO), which is currently under the IMC scheme.

Contrary to popular conjectures, the Administrator believe that subjecting financially distressed ECs to outright privatization is not the only way to turn things around for struggling ECs. He broached the idea that an EC-to-EC takeover might be a better option.

"If possible, let us all be of help to one another, raise our own funds so that we can offer our services to electric cooperatives requiring investment management contract (IMC) before anybody else," the NEA chief said.

Of the 121 ECs operating in the country, 11 are categorized as “ailing,” including five in Mindanao namely Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BASELCO), Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. LASURECO, Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO), Sulu Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SULECO), and Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TAWELCO). #

NEWS AROUND

NEA to ComVal and Davao del Norte electricity consumers: pay your bills to legitimate Daneco

NEA has advised anew the consumers of the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative (Daneco) to pay their electricity bills to the legitimate court-recognized management backed by the Agency.

This, after the NEA ordered the DANECO group associated with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), to stop its illegal operations through the execution of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO). The agency implemented the CDO against the group on November 9, pursuant to pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 10531 otherwise known as the "National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013."

Accompanied by the members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the NEA legal officers and DANECO-NEA closed down the main office and six collection centers of the breakaway group in Davao del Norte.

In issuing the order, Administrator Masongsong directed the DANECO-CDA to refrain from "further performing any and all acts of management and/or control of the EC or any portion of its franchise area."

The Administrator said the two groups operating in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte have been causing confusion among the member-consumer-owners (MCOs) because both Daneco-NEA and Daneco-CDA are collecting bill payments.

Only DANECO-NEA, however, settles its obligations with power suppliers and other government agencies. As a result, Daneco's accounts receivables ballooned to P2.5 billion. Its collection efficiency also dropped to 60 percent and its system loss rose to 19.53 percent.

"This situation had adversely affected the financial viability of Daneco, Inc. as evidenced by the July 2018 Monthly Statistical Financial Report, which showed an aggregate amount of P2.283 billion as indebtedness to the power suppliers," the order read.

"The empirical data indubitably show that the unhampered tortuous operation of Daneco-CDA brought about the financial woes of Daneco, Inc. to the extent of the looming power disconnection by the power suppliers," it added.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled and affirmed with finality the Court of Appeals' decision declaring that the actions of Daneco-CDA, including the conduct of elections and referendum, were illegal.

To recall, the NEA issued a CDO against DANECO-CDA in December 2013, directing the latter to stop its unlawful operations and collections of payments from consumers.

OUND THE ECs

New power substation, sub-transmission line to ease electricity woes in Lanao del Norte

Power situation in Samal Island improves

While DANECO was plagued with issues on bills payment collection and other operational woes, the EC still has something to be grateful for. After enduring years of blackouts due to serious damage in the submarine cable, the power situation in the Island Garden City of Samal (IGACOS) is now stable.

Administrator Masongsong received the news from Igacos Mayor Al David Uy himself who, in a letter sent December 13, said that electricity supply has significantly improved in his city as soon as DANECO fixed its underwater powerline.

Mayor Uy said the co-op also entered into a power supply agreement with Mindoro Grid Corporation to supplement the electricity requirement of their island through its eight-megawatt modular generator set at Brgy. Mambago-a, Peñaplata.

DANECO likewise transferred three units of its own one-megawatt modular generator sets from Compostela Valley to Peñaplata in anticipation of increased power demand and to ensure uninterrupted service for the residents of IGACOS.

"The total installed capacity (of the generator sets) is now more than enough to cater the power need or requirement of our booming island even during peak time or season," the Mayor said, acknowledging the efforts of DANECO, which is currently under a NEA task force.

"I am just hoping that this will continue and be sustained, coupled with the delivery of an efficient and quality service. This is a continuing challenge to DANECO, Inc. as an electric distribution utility," Mayor Uy added.

Masongsong, for his part, welcomed these developments especially in light of the holiday season when electricity consumption is often expected to rise.

"This is a breath of fresh air for the member-consumer-owners in Samal Island who rightfully deserve a decent and reliable electricity service, especially with the resurgence of tourism-related economic activity in Mindanao," the NEA chief said. #

NEA reaffirms commitment to total ... from page 1

party (QTP), private sector participation (PSP), and additional capital expenditure.

With the agency getting P1.163 billion from the national government for 2019 to finance the sitio electrification program, this allocation will only cover 775 sitios compared to 1,817 sitios in 2018.

Other issues raised during the dialogue included the proposed legislative measures posing challenges to the rural electrification sector.

Masongsong said the ECs should take these as a challenge. *"These should be considered as another wake-up call that should be addressed positively by all of us,"* the Administrator said.



The 10-MVA substation and 69 kV subtransmission line located in Tubod, Lanao del Norte

In a move aimed at improving its power system efficiency and reliability, the Lanao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LANECO) commissioned and energized its newly-built 10 MVA substation and 69 kV subtransmission line.

These new facilities were unveiled to the public in a ceremony held on October 27 at the LANECO Energy Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte where Administrator Masongsong served as one of the honored guests.

Funded through NEA loans, the 18-kilometer 69 kV subtransmission line and 10 MVA Tubod substation with supervisory control and data acquisition system are expected to help address power distribution issues in central Lanao del Norte.

"The commissioning and infusion into the LANECO system of this substation is a foot in the right direction with the end in view of addressing reliability and other service delivery issues hounding ECs as demand for electricity has exponentially grown all over the country," the Administrator said.

"This is simply going along the wave of the power industry evolution. We hope that, with these facilities added into the picture, the Laneco will improve its performance and increase its competitiveness as an adaptation measure to the fast-changing industry environment," the NEA chief added.

According to LANECO, the installation of 10 MVA Substation in Tubod "was the best option" to ease the load of the 5 MVA power transformer in Kapatagan substation.

LANECO Project Supervisor/Acting General Manager Sherwin Mañada added that this facility will also cater to the electricity needs of the ongoing Panguil Bay Bridge project, which will connect the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental.

The construction of the 10 MVA Tubod substation started in 2014 and was completed this year. The P33-million facility, which has been operational since September, has already helped reduce the co-op's system loss from 17.67% to 13.64%.



IN FOCUS: PALECO, other power co-ops urged to strive in providing quality services to consumers

NEA exhorted to all ECs in the country to constantly strive for the improvement of their services to their respective communities.



auspicious in the face of an unprecedented government-led construction boom via ‘Build, Build, Build’,” he said.

“Our electric cooperatives must sufficiently provide for the power requirements of the Administration’s flagship endeavors and serve as an economic

Administrator Masongsong made the statement after President Rodrigo Duterte expressed his sentiments regarding the frequent power outages in the province of Palawan.

In his remarks at the Subaru Biodiversity Festival in Puerto Princesa on November 10, President Duterte said he would get a new electricity provider for Palawan should the local officials fail to resolve the province’s energy issues until the end of the year.

The Palawan Electric Cooperative (PALECO) is the lone distributor of electricity in the province, covering Puerto Princesa City, Narra, Aborlan, Quezon, Brooke’s Point, Balabac, Rizal, Roxas, Taytay, El Nido, Araceli, Dumarán, Cuyo, Magsaysay, Bataraza, San Vicente, Cagayancillo, Agutaya and Espanola.

In a statement, the Administrator said the ECs, including PALECO, should step up efforts to improve reliability and quality of electricity service provision to rural areas, as the Duterte government embarks on a massive infrastructure drive nationwide.

“The sentiments of the President should be taken as a challenge to Paleco and to all electric cooperatives in the country. Quality service is a must. This is also

backbone while the program expands to the rural areas,” the NEA chief added. #

NEA intervenes in Palawan electric co-op to help fix power supply woes

In a bid to help resolve the power supply woes that have continued to plague the province of Palawan, NEA has intervened in the management and operations of the beleaguered PALECO.

and to ensure the efficient delivery of electric service to its member-consumer-owners (MCOs).

He is likewise mandated to approve or disapprove Board resolutions in consultation with concerned departments in the state-run agency.

Lalas is also authorized to sign/ countersign checks, withdrawal slips, and other banking transactions, as well as perform other tasks that may be assigned for the purpose of operational efficiency.

"In the exigency of the service and pursuant to Sections 4 (e) and (j) of Presidential Decree No. 269 as amended by Section 5 of R.A. 10531, Engr. Lalas is hereby designated as Project Supervisor/Acting General Manager of Palawan Electric Cooperative (PALECO) effective immediately," the NEA Office Order stated.

His designation, however, will cease upon the appointment of a regular General Manager, which is subject to confirmation by the NEA.

President Duterte gave PALECO until the end of the year to address the frequent brownouts or he would get a new electricity provider for Palawan if the problem persists.

Meanwhile, Administrator Masongsong informed the Senate of the Philippines on the latest development on PALECO on December 13 during the deliberations on the proposed 2019 budget of NEA.

Senate Committee on Energy Chairman Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has urged the NEA to take control of the operations of PALECO to ease the burden on Palawenos, who continue to experience rotational brownouts lasting several hours due to the worsening power supply problem.



On December 10, Administrator Masongsong designated Engr. Nelson Lalas as Project Supervisor and Acting General Manager of PALECO through an office order. Lalas was tasked to manage the day-to-day operations of PALECO



Engr. Nelson Lalas (center), Project Supervisor and Acting General Manager in his initial meeting with the officers of Paleco to discuss immediate concerns and the possible solutions.

"The temporary solution is for NEA to take over right away, fix the governance problem, release it from capture, contract an independent power producer that will deliver the necessary supply and then later on think about whether to offer it to the private sector or not," the senator said.

"Despite its status as an electric cooperative registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, the NEA will not stand idly by. We will exercise the Agency's inherent jurisdiction over Paleco as it has the technical capability to turn things around in Palawan and for Palawan member-consumer-owners," the Administrator said. #

PALECO urged to allow NEA management address power supply woes

In its position paper, Paleco outlined a range of issues in providing electricity service to its MCOs, which include the delay in the approval of its capital expenditure (CapEx) plan by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). As such, PALECO is putting on hold its planned upgrading of distribution lines pending approval of its CapEx application.



PALECO is proposing to install substations in strategic places in Puerto Princesa City and in the southern part of Palawan, as well as to put up a Supervisory

Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System in a bid to improve its power supply reliability in the province. To implement these projects, the EC filed its application for CapEx program in March 2017 but is yet to receive its approval from ERC.

"We all know that the electric industry is a regulated business controlled by the government, particularly the ERC. We cannot implement the said major projects without the approval of the ERC," PALECO explained.

Pending approval of such, the PALECO Board passed a resolution requesting the ERC to allow the EC to implement some of the projects included in its application, such as the purchase of the SCADA System and the installation of two substations in Puerto Princesa.

Another concern of PALECO was the installation of transmission lines of the National Power Corp. (NPC) and upgrading of its substations to augment its existing capacities.

PALECO also pointed out that different government laws, rules and regulations hinder the implementation of the electrification projects in the province. The EC cited in particular the delays in the processing and issuance of necessary permits like the environmental compliance certificates, and electrical permits from the local government.

The EC explained that the road widening projects of the Department of

Public Works and Highways (DPWH) also contribute to the causes of interruptions in electrical service in the province.

"The road widening is an excellent project because this will boost the progress of the City of Puerto Princesa and the Province of Palawan. However, Paleco's operations were greatly affected due to the need for the relocation of affected poles which in turn result to a series of power interruptions," PALECO said.

Moreover, the local power utility also sought the national government's assistance to get Palawan's rightful share in the Malampaya project to accelerate the electrification projects in the province.

PALECO is the lone power distributor of Puerto Princesa City and 18 municipalities, serving 137,277 consumers or 57 percent of the 240,700 potential connections as of June 2018. #



NEA, Toshiba sign MoU... from page 3

energy development poses a potent regulation-compliant source of electricity for electric cooperatives and their member-consumer-owners," he said.

"Piloting this technology here in the Philippines, in EC areas in the countryside, is a welcome development. I hope this pushes through in a larger scale here as ECs increasingly shift their energy mix from traditional energy sources to more sustainable modes of generation to supply their electricity-for-distribution requirements," the NEA chief added.

Based on the NEA data, there are 1,702 off-grid areas that are still without any access to electricity. These are located mainly in Mindanao with 1,003, followed by Visayas with 557, and Luzon with 142 off-grid areas.



NEA, ECs mobilized task forces to help restore power in typhoon-ravaged provinces in North Luzon

NEA and ECs mobilized anew task forces to help restore power in North Luzon in the aftermath of Typhoons Ompong (Mangkhut) and Rosita (Yutu).

In October, Typhoon Ompong, considered as the strongest typhoon to hit the country for 2018, wreaked havoc in 19 provinces and knocked out power to an estimated 2.363 million households within the franchise areas of the Cagayan I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO I), CAGELCO II, Abra Electric Cooperative (ABRECO), Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO), Kalinga-Apayao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KAELCO), Ifugao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (IFELCO), Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC), Isabela I Electric Cooperative (ISELCO I), ISELCO II, Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative (NUVELCO), and Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISECO) Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative (PANELCO I), La Union Electric Cooperative (LUELCO), Mountain Province Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MOPRECO), and Batanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATANELCO).



The estimated cost of damage to the distribution facilities of these ECs has reached P292.075 million. CAGELCO I suffered the most damage estimated at P77.703 million, followed by CAGELCO II at P75.677 and BENECO at P39.152 million.

Restoration efforts were conducted for more than three weeks after Typhoon Ompong landed.

CAGELCO II OIC-General Manager Blandina Madamba said it has taken up to end of October to complete the restoration in all households. For CAGELCO I, it has taken longer to fully restore all households as General Manager Tito Lingan set a target of November 30.

Before all restoration efforts were finished, Typhoon Rosita made landfall in Dinapigue, Isabela on October 30. The storm came more than a month after Typhoon Ompong left a path of destruction in 19 provinces in Luzon, including Isabela and Quirino.

Twelve 12 ECs in Central Luzon sent about 85 line workers, 12 boom trucks loaded with equipment, and eight utility vehicles to help with the power restoration efforts in the said provinces.

NEA holds public consultation ... from page 3

initial amount of P750 million to be taken from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Fund and will be released to the NEA Quick Response Fund for proper release to qualified ECs.

In case of fund deficiency, the NEA may seek the allocation of a supplementary budget, subject to the approval of the President.

NEA may also accept donations in the form of funds, materials and equipment intended for the restoration and rehabilitation of the ECs' damaged infrastructure, subject to existing auditing rules and regulations and shall be exempt from taxes and duties.

The ECs are required to submit to the NEA their respective comprehensive and integrated disaster management programs, such as Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, Resiliency Compliance Plans, and Emergency Response Plans every year.#

Reynaldo Villanueva, president of the Central Luzon Electric Cooperatives Association (CLECA), noted that some of these line workers came in fresh from serving task force duties in Cagayan, which was battered by Typhoon Ompong.

"Ang mga skilled line workers natin talagang batikan sa pag-restore ng power at pag-akyat ng mga poste, kaya talagang sanay na sila. Napakarami na naming pinuntahan na mga kooperatiba na nabagyo for the past 10 years," Villanueva said.

Typhoon Rosita affected an estimated 108,012 households in eight provinces in Luzon covered by nine ECs to be without electricity.

Administrator Masongsong commended CLECA for always answering the call for help of fellow ECs after a calamity, citing that the organization also sent crews to help with restoration efforts in Cagayan.

"This is the second time in two months that these line heroes are being deployed to alleviate the dark plight of our EC member-consumer-owners in the North," he said.

"We are cognizant of the contribution of these line workers in keeping the affected provinces afloat as they recover from the devastation of natural calamities like Typhoon Rosita," the NEA chief added. #



EDITORIAL BOARD

EDGARDO R. MASONGSONG
Executive Editor

VICAR LOUREN G. LOFRANCO
Editor-in-Chief

ROSARITA E. SALVADOR
Managing Editor

LOURDES S. QUINTERO **ELLEN FLEUR V. BANG-AY** **RAFAEL B. BARRIENTOS**
Staffwriters

HECHADEE S. DELA CRUZ **LEILANI L. RICO** **CRIS-ANN G. ODRONIA**
Contributors

BRIAN O. ALEGRE **ERNESTO T. DE VERA**
Artist Photographer

EDMUNDO P. AGUILAR. **ANNABELLE P. CRUZ**
Production

KALVIN G. CARIÑO **ANDRES P. RATIO**
RODOLFO R. ROQUE **HILARIO A. DE CASTRO**
Administrative Support

enerNEA is a quarterly publication of the NEA
Tel: 929-2237 / 929-1909 loc. 153
www.nea.gov.ph
FB page: @OfficialNEA, Twitter page: @nea_ph
Email: pao_nea@yahoo.com / nea.pao@gmail.com