



14 MILLIONTH HOUSE ENERGIZED UNDER RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) led the ceremonial switch-on of the 14-millionth consumer connection in the country under the rural electrification program.

The 14 millionth household connection is located in Sitio Kamias-Badjao Annex, Barangay Bus-Bus, Municipality of Jolo, Sulu province under the coverage area of the Sulu Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SULECO).

The recipient family is a member of the Badjao community. The mother of two, Indahming Asanji works as a "labandera" (laundrywoman) while her husband is a porter/laborer at Jolo wharf.

The ceremonial switch-on was held in Barangay Bus-Bus, Jolo, on April 16, 2021, with NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong and officials from SULECO leading the activity.

In his message, Masongsong underscored the importance of the government's Rural Electrification Program (REP) in uplifting the living conditions of communities.

He also assured that the agency, together with the 121 electric cooperatives (ECs), will not stop in its mission of bringing electricity to the countryside, and ensuring the benefits of electricity will lead to countryside development for all.

"Hindi tayo hihinto," Masongsong said during the ceremony. *"Hindi pa tapos ang programa ng NEA na rural electrification kung hindi pa umaasenso ang buhay ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino."*

The NEA chief also urged SULECO, as well as the other ECs nationwide supervised by the agency, to work further not just to energize the last mile "but to realize rural development that is sustainable and will contribute to genuine nation building."

As of December 2020, the NEA data showed there are 14.253 million consumer connections under the franchise areas of the 121 ECs across the country.



Indahming Asanji, the beneficiary of the 14 millionth consumer connection during the ceremonial switch on. The ceremony was led by NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong and SULECO Board President Muhibuddin A Ismail and General Manager Peraida T. Jalani. Mrs. Asanji also receives a special token from SULECO.

Present at the ceremony were RECOBODA party-list Rep. Godofredo N. Guya, SULECO Board President Muhibuddin A. Ismail, SULECO General Manager Peraida T. Jalani; representatives from Sulu provincial government, Jolo municipal government and the 35th Infantry Makamandag Battalion; AMRECO president Jose Raul Saniel and MORESCO II project supervisor Edmundo Pacamalan.

Also in attendance were NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki Tortola, Total Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Department (TEREDD) Director Ernesto Silvano, Jr. and Database Management and Program Control Division (DMPCD) Manager Leilani Rico. ###

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ELECTRIC COOPS REGISTER OVER 148K NEW CONSUMER CONNECTIONS IN 1ST QUARTER



Electric cooperatives (ECs) have recorded an additional 148,792 consumer connections in the first quarter of the current year, data submitted to the NEA showed.

The NEA Information Technology and Communication Services Department (ITCSD) said the figure, which is equivalent to 37 percent of the corporate target, is slightly higher than the 134,435 new connections registered in the first quarter of 2020.

"A significant level of accomplishment at 148,792 or 37 percent of the target 400,000 new connections for this year has been monitored. It is slightly higher than the previous year's 134,435 new connections," ITCSD Manager Roderick Padua said.

The additional consumer connections brought the overall level of energization to 90 percent with 14,446,299 consumer connections within the coverage areas of 121 ECs nationwide.

Broken down into major islands, Luzon is now 95 percent energized with 6,745,982 connections; Visayas at 93 percent with 3,826,682 connections; and Mindanao at 80 percent with 3,873,635 connections.

Meanwhile, the NEA data also showed the number of unserved consumers within the 121 ECs' franchise areas across the country is now down to 1,452,425, based on the 2015 Census of Population and Housing. ###



NEA ENERGIZES 362 SITIOS; SETS TO ELECTRIFY OFF-GRID AREAS

NEA, in partnership with the ECs, has energized 362 sitios under its Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) from January to April 2021, while efforts to bring power to off-grid areas were being undertaken.

NEA data showed the bulk of these newly energized areas were in Mindanao with 200 sitios, followed by the Visayas with 106 sitios, and Luzon with 56 sitios.

Broken down per region: six sitios were energized in Region II; two sitios in Cordillera Administrative Region; 10 sitios in Region III; five sitios in Region IV-A; 21 sitios in Region IV-B; and 12 sitios in Region V.

At least 11 sitios were energized in Region VI; 78 sitios in Region VII; 17 sitios in Region VIII; seven sitios in Region IX; 81 sitios in Region X; seven sitios in Region XI; 67 sitios in Region XII; 27 sitios in CARAGA; and 11 sitios in BARMM.

These newly energized sitio projects were funded by the previous years' General Appropriations Acts.

For 2021 SEP implementation, the NEA has an approved budget of PhP1.627 billion. This amount will be able to electrify 1,085 sitios nationwide. Energizing a sitio costs an average P1.5 million.

Meanwhile, for the energization of off-grid areas in the countryside, the NEA is undertaking two solutions: the Strategized Sitio Electrification Program (SSEP) and the Strategized Household Electrification Program (SHEP).

The SSEP has an allocated budget of PhP12 million under the 2019 GAA to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a mini-grid system with renewable energy sources.

Feasibility study for six off-grid sites under the franchise areas of Quezon II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO II), Zamboanga del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZANECO), and South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II) were in process.

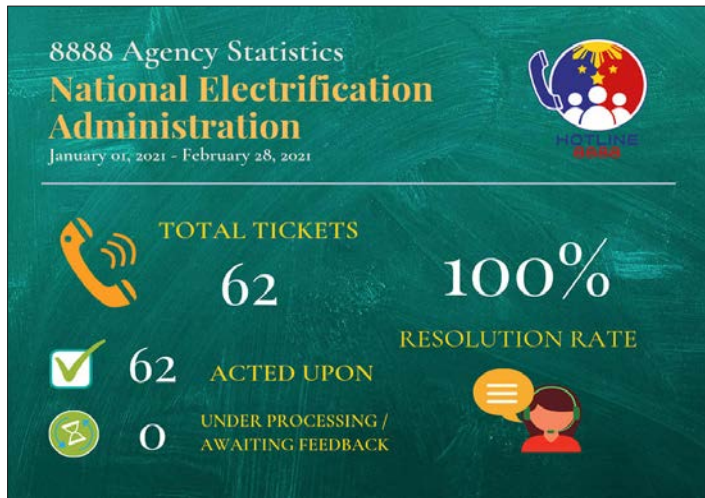
The SHEP, on the other hand, is intended to bring electricity to dispersed and isolated households, which are unviable for grid connection for the next five years. The target is to electrify at least 5,000 households in off-grid areas using Solar Home Systems.

The installation of SHS was done in the household beneficiaries under the coverage areas of ZANECO, Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO), Iloilo III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO III), Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO IV), and Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO). ###



NEA ACHIEVES FULL RESOLUTION OF 8888 COMPLAINTS IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 2021

As part of its governance initiatives, NEA is committed to achieve 100-percent resolution rate on citizens' complaints and concerns coursed through the government's 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center (CCC).



"We would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all tickets are acted upon within the prescribed period," Casinabe said in a letter.

Administrator Masongsong thanked the 8888 CCC for the commendation.

"Rest assured that the NEA, together with our partner electric cooperatives (ECs), will continue to work hard to ensure that all concerns and complaints logged via 8888 are properly and promptly attended to," Masongsong said.

The 8888 CCC was established in 2016 to serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their complaints and grievances on acts of red tape as defined under Republic Act No. 9485, as amended by RA No. 11032, and/or corruption activities of any national government agency and other government corporation, financial institution, or instrumentalities.

In the first two months of the 2021, NEA attained 100-percent compliance rate, which means all of the 62 tickets on citizens' concerns referred to the electrification agency were acted upon and closed within 72 hours.

In a letter to Administrator Edgardo Masongsong, 8888 CCC Director Bernadette Casinabe recognized the efforts of the agency in ensuring that all complaints are acted upon in a timely manner.

Pursuant to the minimum operating standards of the 8888 CCC, the citizen's concern shall immediately be referred to the concerned government agency for appropriate action, which shall have a concrete and specific action within 72 hours from receipt of the concern. Failure of the government agency to respond in a timely manner will be considered grounds for administrative sanctions.###

NEA EXTENDS Php 225.56 MILLION IN LOANS TO ECS

NEA ensures that ECs were given the necessary assistance and support to implement their projects through the agency's Lending and Guarantee Program.

From January to April, a total of Php225.560 million worth of loans was released. In April alone, some Php123 million was extended to ECs to improve the rural electrification infrastructure of five ECs in the country, based on the data of the agency's Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD).

The recipients were Bantayan Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BANELCO), La Union Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LUELCO), Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I), Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II), and Bukidnon Second Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUSECO).

The biggest amount of the loans, or Php74.591 million, went to LUELCO for the construction, installation, and commissioning of its 15 MVA Sison substation and 69-kV subtransmission lines.

BUSECO borrowed Php21.534 million for the purchase of kWh meters and other materials, and for the upgrading of its secondary lines. BOHECO II secured P18.437 million to fund the construction of its main building in Jagna, Bohol.

The NEA also provided BANELCO a Php5 million working



capital loan for its power accounts, while QUEZELCO I received P3.557 million for the procurement of two trucks intended for the use of its line workers.

For this year, the electrification agency targets to extend P500 million in loans to ECs, excluding calamity loans. ###

NEA beefs up health and wellness program for a safe, illness-free work environment

In the effort to promote health and wellness in the workplace, NEA, through the Human Resources and Administration Department (HRAD) conducts activities to provide officials and employees with facilities to safeguard their health.



Swab Testing for NEA Employees

On June 22, 2021, a total of 193 officials, employees and other building occupants of the NEA underwent the free Antigen and RT-PCR swab testing through the help of the Quezon City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (QCESU). This activity is in support to the government’s drive to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus.



Anti-Flu and Pneumococcal Vaccine for NEA Employees and dependents

To protect employees and dependents from catching infectious diseases during the pandemic, Anti-flu and Pneumococcal Vaccination was held on June 5 and 18, 2021 at NEA. Vaccines were administered to a total of 142 employees and their dependents. The administration of the vaccine was done as a preventive health measure.

Annual Target on Competency and Certification Programs almost done

NEA, through its NEA EC Training Institute (NETI), continued to hold capacity-building activities for NEA and EC personnel. As of end of Second Quarter 2021, NETI data showed that a total of 1,030 personnel graduated from 44 competency programs were provided by NEA. This represents 92 percent of the annual target of 1,100 as included in the agency’s performance commitment in the 2021 Corporate Scorecard.

A series of competency and certification programs that dealt with better cooperative management, effective communication using social media, lineman training, taxation, and other development programs were conducted for ECs.

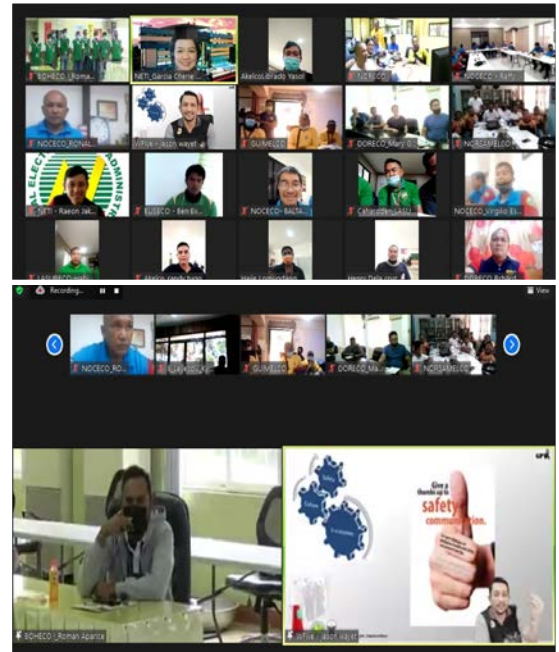
Meanwhile, training development programs for NEA were lined up. These activities focused on human resources planning and management, quality management system, and training development, among others.

For the 2nd quarter of 2021, NETI has conducted a total of 14 competency programs with 834 participants and 4 non-competency programs that were attended by 623 participants.

On the other hand, 196 NEA officials and employees participated in 30 competency programs (27 scholarships and three regular programs) and 459 NEA personnel in 12 non-competency programs (six regular programs and six scholarship programs).

COMPETENCY PROGRAMS				NON-COMPETENCY PROGRAMS	
EC	REGULAR PROGRAMS	14	834	4	623
	SUB-TOTAL	14	834	4	623
NEA	REGULAR	3	101	6	411
	SCHOLARSHIP	27	95	6	48
	SUB-TOTAL	30	196	12	459
	TOTAL	44	1030	16	1082

PHOTO GALLERY



Session 1 : 8:00AM to 12:00NN | Thursday, June 3, 2021 * via zoom
 Sessions 2 - 4 : 8:30AM to 12:00NN | Fri, Mon & Tues, June 4, 7 & 8, 2021 * via zoom



Various competency and certification programs were conducted in the 2nd quarter of 2021. These include topics like Cooperative Management Course, Lineman Safety Training Course, Taxation of Electric Cooperatives, Orientation for New Employees, among others.

NEWS AROUND THE ECS

NEA TO ECS: ENSURE CONTINUOUS POWER SUPPLY TO VACCINE COLD STORAGE FACILITIES, VACCINATION SITES



photo credits: inquirer.net

NEA has issued a memorandum urging all ECs to observe due diligence to ensure the continuity of electricity supply to COVID-19 vaccine cold storage facilities and administration sites in their respective coverage areas.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong issued Memorandum No. 2021-018 dated May 17, 2021, to 121 ECs following reports that over 300 vials of Sinovac vaccines were spoiled in Makilala, North Cotabato after a power interruption.

"All ECs are advised to coordinate with the building administrator of vaccine storage facilities and sites in their respective franchise areas to discuss and make a strategic plan of action on joint inspection of the facilities, basic protocols during power interruptions, and restoration procedures," Masongsong said.

The NEA said the minimum standards and requirements on time of power availability, control, switching, protection for healthcare facilities and other related critical structures shall follow the guidelines of the Philippine Electrical Code.

It also emphasized the sources of backup power, which may include storage battery, generator set, uninterruptible power supply, separate service drop, fuel cell system and unit equipment.

"Per usual industry practice, the building/facility owners usually install backup (power) especially when critical loads are involved. If this is not the case, please coordinate with your LGU for possible assistance on the provision of backup power," the electrification agency noted.

The application of automatic transfer switches is also important and necessary for healthcare facilities and emergency systems.

The ECs were also advised to conduct information drive and orientation for local government staff involved in vaccination program about basic protocols during power interruptions and restoration procedures.

"ECs with histories of having frequent power interruptions, temporary or sustained, are highly encouraged to implement sterner precautionary measures," the NEA chief said, adding that these measures must include enhanced line clearing activities and availability of maintenance teams during emergency situations. ###

NEA FORMS TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE MORESCO II'S OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

NEA took steps to intervene into the management of an EC in Misamis Oriental through the creation of a task force aimed at improving the power distribution utility's operational efficiency.

The NEA Board of Administrators passed Resolution No. 2021-44, approving the deactivation of the Board of Directors of the Misamis Oriental II Rural Service Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO II) and the creation of Task Force Sidlakang Misamis Dos Power (TF-SMDP).

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong, through Office Order No. 2021-36 dated March 30, 2021, said the creation of the task force was in the exigency of the service and pursuant to Section 4 (e) and (j) and Section 4-A of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 269 as amended by Republic Act (RA) No. 10531.

This developed after the comprehensive assessment conducted by the NEA Management and Consultancy Services Office (MCSCO) revealed that the operational performance of MORESCO II retrogressed from "AAA" to "B" rating, with three non-compliances, namely, power accounts, collection efficiency and system loss.

"The immediate intervention of the NEA is necessary in order to avert further operational and financial losses to the detriment of the EC member-consumer-owners and other stakeholders," Administrator Masongsong said through the Office Order.

The task force, chaired by Atty. Melchor Cubillo, were tasked to perform the duties and responsibilities of the EC Board of Directors prescribed in NEA Bulletin No. 35 and NEA Memorandum No. 2020-001 on Code of Governance for Electric Cooperatives.

Named as members of the task force were the general managers of neighboring top-performing Electric Cooperatives: Engr. Jovel Ubay-Ubay of the Misamis Oriental I Rural Service Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I); Christopher Dulfo, CPA, of Bukidnon Second Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUSECO); and Engr. Darwin Daymiel of Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO); with Jovinita Calingin and a representative from the provincial government of Misamis Oriental.

In coordination with the MORESCO II management, the TF-SMDP should, among other, endeavor to resolve several issues that brought it to its financial distress; institute measures in the management and operational performance towards NEA standards; review its governance policies and practices and institute measures for reforms; and, obtain/encourage commitment building from the EC leaders, officers and employees and stakeholders.

It should also assist NEA in monitoring an assessment of the operations of MORESCO II based on monthly and quarterly reports, historical and projected cash flow statement; and, in providing financial, institutional, and technical support in its operational management.

To recall, the NEA also designated Edmundo Pacamalan as Project Supervisor (PS) of MORESCO II effective September 25, 2020 by virtue of Office Order No. 2020-097 in an effort to help resolve the issues on frequent power interruptions and operational inefficiency. ###

NEWS AROUND THE ECS

PALECO LISTS PROJECTS TO BOOST POWER RELIABILITY

The Palawan Electric Cooperative (PALECO) continuously worked to improve the reliability of the electricity and reduce power interruptions in the province of Palawan, including Puerto Princesa City.

In a report to NEA, PALECO cited its on-going projects to boost its power distribution systems, which include the construction of two 5 MVA substations in Brgy. Lucbuan and Brgy. Montible, Puerto Princesa City.

The EC has also undertaken the relocation of the remaining electric poles affected by the road widening projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the province. In 2020, the power utility was able to relocate 278 electric poles.

To reduce power outages and interruptions, PALECO prioritized the clearing of obstructions along its power distribution lines. The EC earlier recognized vegetation as one of the primary causes of outages in the province.

In 2019, PALECO cleared a total of 463.87 kilometers of right-of-way. This year, the areas that were being prioritized for line clearing were the following: San Jose Feeder, Iwahig Feeder, Poblacion Feeder, Wescom Feeder, and GMA Feeder.

In addition, the power distribution utility also successfully completed the construction works to connect Barangay Rio Tuba in the Municipality of Bataraza to the main power grid in February this year.

The EC also has several projects in the pipeline, which include the construction of 25 MVA substation in Puerto Princesa City, 5 MVA substation in Aborlan, upgrading of 13.8 kV tie-line from Delta-P to PALECO substation to 69 kV, and conversion of single to three phase lines from Brgy. San Rafael to Brgy. Concepcion, and from Lio to Barutuan in El Nido.



In the offing were the approved capital expenditure (CapEx) projects, such as the line extension in Balabac, Brooke's Point, Cuyo, Narra, Rizal, Roxas, Taytay and Quezon; and upgrading of single-phase to three-phase connection in Puerto Princesa City, Rizal, Roxas, Taytay, and El Nido.

To recall, PALECO was placed under the management of the NEA in December 2018 following the directive of Malacañang to address the power situation in the province. In 2019, the NEA formed Task Force Kapatid, which was composed of different ECs from Luzon and the Visayas, to help PALECO improve its power distribution services.

PALECO covered Puerto Princesa City and the municipalities of Aborlan, Narra, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Espanola, Cuyo, Magsaysay, Quezon, Roxas, Taytay, El Nido, Araceli, San Vicente, Bataraza, Rizal, Balabac, Cagayancillo, Agutaya and Dumarán. ###

OMECO SEEKS ERC APPROVAL TO EXTEND EMERGENCY PSA WITH OMCP

The Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMECO) has sought the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to further extend its Emergency Power Supply Agreement (EPSA) with Occidental Mindoro Consolidated Power Corporation (OMCPC). On June 11, OMECO finally received a Certificate of Exemption (COE) from the Department of Energy (DOE) on the conduct of Competitive Selection Process (CSP) for the procurement of 29MW EPSA for a cooperation period from June 26, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

The exemption is pursuant to Section 2.2.2 of the Department Circular No. DC2018-02-0003.

With this issuance, OMECO appealed to ERC to consider the urgency of approving the EPSA covering the June 26 to December 31, 2021 period. Pre-hearing meeting was set by ERC with OMECO and OMCPC on Tuesday, June 15, prior to the Commission's En Banc Meeting on June 17.

The electric cooperative is implementing rotational power interruptions, a maximum of 3 hours per area scheduled, in the province of Occidental Mindoro due to shortage of power supply.

The available capacity of OMECO from its power providers is only 24MW, of which 20MW comes from the Bunker Diesel Power Plant of OMCPC, and 4MW is sourced from the National Power Corporation (NPC).

"During peak hours, when the weather is too hot and humid, demand reaches 27MW. But in cold weather, demand goes down to 23MW," OMECO Project Supervisor and Acting General Manager Cesar Faeldon said.

To address the supply deficit, last December 4, 2020, OMECO and OMCPC signed a 5MW EPSA where capacity is planned to be installed at Tayamaan, Mamburao. However, application for the approval of the said 5MW with the ERC is still in process.

For a long-term solution, OMECO is currently conducting its regular Competitive Selection Process for the procurement of 39MW power supply for the mainland of Occidental Mindoro.

The signing of the Power Supply Agreement with the winning bidder is expected on August 19, 2021. The commercial operation is on January 1, 2022. ###

NEA: DAMAGE TO EC FACILITIES HIT BY TROPICAL STORM 'DANTE' AT PHP2.7M

The cost of damage inflicted by Tropical Storm 'Dante' on the power distribution facilities was estimated at PhP2.715 million, reports submitted by the electric cooperatives (ECs) to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) showed.



These provinces are Marinduque, Romblon, Masbate, Eastern Samar and Biliran based on the monitoring of the NEA through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD).

Among the affected ECs, the Masbate Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MASELCO) incurred the biggest amount of damage at PhP1.986 million, based on the monitoring of the NEA Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD).

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V) posted PhP576,533 worth of damage, while the Tablas Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TIELCO) sustained PhP77,549 in damage.

The Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO), on the other hand, reported PhP53,037-worth of damage to its power facilities; and the Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ROMELCO) incurred a damage worth PhP21,800.

The NEA DRRMD earlier directed the 121 ECs to take the appropriate contingency measures to minimize the potential impact of the weather disturbance to their power distribution facilities.

The ECs were also advised to activate their respective Emergency Response Organization when the need arises to implement without delay the appropriate emergency response plans. ###

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