



enerNEA

The Official Newsletter of the National Electrification Administration

MORE FILIPINOS REAP THE BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY THRU EU-FUNDED I-PURE PROGRAM



Mindanaoans have been granted additional access to sustainable electrification as all electric cooperatives (ECs) involved in the Integration of Productive Uses of Renewable Energy (I-PURE) program delivered on their commitments, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) has reported.

I-PURE is a project funded by the European Union (EU) through its Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP). NEA serves as one of its key implementing partners in the Philippines, together with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and supported by the Department of Energy (DOE).

The three-year project began in the second half of 2021 with primary components along the areas of productive energy use through: 1) livelihood opportunities; 2) sustainable energization of households; and 3) capacity building toward the effective management of renewable energy sources.

According to the NEA Total Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Department (TEREDD), the I-PURE Projects of ECs based in North and South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Tawi-Tawi are completed, or are in the final stages of completion. ➔ [page 7](#)

NEA SUSTAINS QUALITY SERVICES, EARNS NEW ISO CERTIFICATE

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) maintained an effective Quality Management System (QMS) of its legal, institutional, financial and technical services to electric cooperatives (ECs), thereby enabling the Agency to qualify for a new certificate from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

TÜV Rheinland Philippines, Inc. conducted a recertification audit of NEA last 21 December 2023. The independent auditors recommended the issuance of the ISO 9001:2015 certificate to the state-owned corporation after passing their evaluation. ➔ [page 5](#)

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NEA AIMS TO LAUNCH FLAGSHIP DIGITAL DASHBOARD COMMAND CENTER WITHIN 2024

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) heads into the New Year with great enthusiasm, as preparations continue for the launch of one of its flagship projects, the Digital Dashboard Command Center (DDCC).



NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda said that he looks forward to working with Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) and Cebu III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEBECO III), which will serve as pilot co-ops for the first phase of DDCC.

Both electric cooperatives (ECs) were selected because they already have Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems in place. The NEA aims to collaborate with government agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to prepare other ECs in relation to the SCADA system and the DDCC.

Administrator Almeda told EC officials at a thanksgiving gathering held last 18 December 2023 that NEA aims to roll out the DDCC and hook up 60 ECs within 2024.

Further, the Administrator stated that he is working closely with the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (APEC) Partylist Representative Sergio C. Dagooc on a potential collaboration with DOST regarding the initiative.

"[Congressman] Dagooc mentioned to me the willingness of the DOST to help those co-ops (that are) not financially capable to for the SCADA system to be incorporated in their operations." Administrator Almeda said.

Assuming that this proposed collaboration pushes through, the NEA chief said that it will greatly benefit the ECs, so they would not be left behind in terms of reaping the potential advantages of this development.

"Hopefully, hulong ng Diyos ang Department of Science and Technology at makatulong ang national government para makumpleto natin that all our 121 co-ops are globally competitive in integrating their systems into the digital command center," Administrator Almeda said.

The NEA has been pushing for the DDCC to enable the Agency to better facilitate ground support for the ECs and serve their member-consumer-owners better.

NEA HOPES I-PURE PROJECTS WILL BOOST MINDANAO ELECTRIFICATION RATE

With the recent successful implementation of the Integration of Productive Uses of Renewable Energy (I-PURE) program in Mindanao, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) looks forward to improving the electrification rate of the entire island, which is currently at 80 percent.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda issued this statement last 09 November 2023, when he attended the switch-on and building marker unveiling ceremonies of several key I-PURE projects in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat.

In his remarks, the Administrator took note of the opportunities that the entire I-PURE program, and other similar projects, would bring in terms of addressing the challenge of 100 percent total electrification by 2028.

"It's a big challenge for us in NEA. It's a big challenge for the 121 electric cooperatives (ECs). But I always tell my colleagues in NEA and the electric cooperatives: challenge is accepted. We will do this and one of the areas of concern, really, is in the island of Mindanao," Administrator Almeda said.

He pointed specifically to the provinces within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), saying this is where he would need the help of all the general managers in successful Mindanao power co-ops. *"We have to work double time,"* he noted.

Latest energization figures from the NEA Database Management and Program Control Division showed that the BARMM ECs are currently at a 40-percent electrification rate, covering 282,330 households out of 703,499 potential connections. → page 5

NEA WORKING WITH SPANISH EMBASSY TO REVAMP POWER DISTRIBUTION OPS IN MAGUINDANAO DEL SUR

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) welcomed the support of the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, which expressed serious interest in developing an electrical grid for Maguindanao del Sur to improve its power distribution system and spur economic growth in the province.

This transpired following a closed-door meeting between officials of the NEA led by Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda and the visiting Spanish Ambassador Miguel Utray Delgado with Vice Governor Nathaniel Midtimbang and other local government executives last 08 November 2023.



The meeting was held at the provincial capitol in Buluan, Maguindanao del Sur and included officials from the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO), Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO), Freya Business Consultancy Corp., and Spanish energy company Elecnor.

MAGELCO is among the seven electric cooperatives (ECs) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) that are facing serious challenges in terms of reaching its rural electrification targets.

As of September 2023, it has managed to connect only 56,823 households out of 173,023 potential connections, based on status of energization records from the NEA Database Management and Program Control Division.

According to NEA Management Assistant for MAGELCO Operations Engr. Floyd Eric Bautista, this collaboration with the Embassy of Spain presents a good opportunity to resolve power supply issues and technical deficiencies in the distribution system of the co-op.

“They (Spanish Embassy) are about to conduct a feasibility study to begin (the project). And we, in MAGELCO, are providing the requirements that they need to achieve good results from that feasibility study,” Bautista told regional network Bandera News TV-Cotabato in Filipino in a recent interview.

Bautista noted that NEA, under the leadership of the current Administrator, is pursuing this initiative to help MAGELCO improve its power distribution operations, thus enabling it to be more competitive in the market like other successful ECs in Mindanao.

In a separate interview with the same network, Utray said that they are also exploring the possibility of installing solar power plants to generate additional supply of renewable energy for the province. At least two Spanish energy companies are involved in the discussions—Elecnor and Acciona.

“We have a very good cooperation with electrical authorities in the Philippines—with the Department of Energy, with NEA, and here with MAGELCO—and what we want to do is a master plan for the distribution of electricity in Maguindanao del Sur,” the Spanish diplomat said.

This is in line with the thrust of the Spanish government to actively support ongoing efforts in developing nations towards clean energy transition amid the challenges of global warming and in the interest of sustainable development.

“The world now is facing the climate change consequences. All of us have a responsibility to involve other renewable energies, to make an energy transition. But we also have to make a digital transition and we are cooperating with the Philippines to prosper in that direction,” Utray noted.

NEA ASSESSES POWER CO-OPS' PERFORMANCE DURING BSKE OPERATIONS

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) rated the performance of electric cooperatives (ECs) positively following the recently concluded 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) based on the assessment of its Power Task Force Election (PTFE).

While there have been significant outages reported before, during, and after the polling period, which affected some precincts, the majority of the ECs managed to restore electricity service immediately, according to NEA Engineering Department Director Eric Villar.

“This was because most ECs have area officers where their respective power task forces were positioned. Hence, the response was immediate,” said Villar, the overall team leader of the NEA-PTFE, over the weekend.

“The ECs were always mindful when it comes to power restoration as if they were restoring electric service to every consumer after a disaster,” he added.

Moving forward, the electrification agency aims to establish an integrated data and information collection system remotely through a digital dashboard, which is part of the planned command center under the leadership of NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda.

This is to address the reporting challenges experienced by some power co-ops. The state-owned corporation seeks to improve its monitoring systems to better understand and supervise the ECs' operations in nearly real-time.

“The NEA, so far, is monitoring the ECs' compliance with the Smart Grid policy, which will further enhance the monitoring of the NEA-PTFE in terms of power interruption reports attributed to the ECs' distribution systems,” Villar said.

The NEA-PTFE officially wrapped up its monitoring activities following the Commission on Elections' (COMELEC) conclusion of the 2023 BSKE.

CHRISTMAS AT NEA

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) officially welcomes the holiday season with the traditional Christmas Tree Lighting activity on 01 December 2023 at its headquarters in Diliman, Quezon City.



Deputy Administrator for Legal Services Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee led the ceremony with department managers Atty. Xerxes Adzuara, Engr. Henrietta Maramot, and Luisa Hernandez from the Management and Consultancy Services Office (MCSO), Judy Arcilla (Internal Audit and Quality Standards Management Office), Rosie Alamillo (Accounts Management and Guarantee Department), Corporate Secretary Atty. Gwen Enciso-Kyamko, officer-in-charge Atty. Claudette Ubaldo-Dema (Regulatory Affairs Office), and Atty. Bryan Merza from the Legal Services Office (LSO).

The LSO organized the activity with the Samahan ng mga Kawaning Makareporma ng NEA (SAMAKAREN) in line with the community outreach programs of the agency. Pledges were made by NEA officials and employees for the benefit of the Agency's service partners and the "Missionaries of Charity Home of Love" in Antipolo City.

NEA LEGAL SERVICES OFFICE CONDUCTS OUTREACH ACTIVITY IN RIZAL

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) and its Legal Services Office (LSO) recently participated in a community outreach program for the benefit of orphaned children under the custody of the Home of Love, Missionaries of Charity Sisters of Mother Teresa in Antipolo City, Rizal.

The LSO led by Atty. Bryan Merza organized the gift-giving activity together with the members of the Samahan ng mga Kawaning Makareporma ng NEA (SAMAKAREN) last 18 December 2023. This is part of their annual tradition in time for the Christmas holiday season.



The orphanage received grocery packs (including rice, cooking oil, diapers, infant milk, sugar, soap, toothpaste, vitamins, among other things) and school supplies for the children.

Donations for the charity are from the pledges of NEA officials and employees during the Christmas Tree Lighting activity held last 01 December 2023 in Diliman, Quezon City.

The NEA and SAMAKAREN regularly conduct seasonal outreach activities in keeping with the core values of the NEA: honesty, efficiency, and solidarity.

LOANS FACILITATED TO ECs NEAR P1-BILLION AS OF END OF NOVEMBER

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) already disbursed a total of P975.54-million worth of loans to at least 26 electric cooperatives (ECs) between January to 30 November 2023, according to the latest report of its Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD).

The updated figures showed that the state-owned corporation already exceeded its P700-million target releases for the year by 139.36-percent. The largest part or P474.69-million funded the capital expenditures (CapEx) of 19 ECs particularly those in the Mindanao.

The list includes Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BASELCO); Bukidnon Second Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUSECO); Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DASURECO); Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Service Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I); Siasi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SIASELCO); Siargao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SIARELCO); South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO I); Surigao del Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SURSECO I); Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TAWELCO); and Zamboanga del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZANECO).

Power co-ops that availed of the CapEx loans in Visayas were the Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II); Camotes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CELCO); Iloilo III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ILECO III); Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V); Northern Negros Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NONECO); and Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO).

Borrowers from Luzon, meanwhile, include the First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FLECO), Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I), and Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SORECO I).

Nine ECs accessed around P438-million worth of loans as working capital. These are Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANTECO); Aurora Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AURELCO); BOHECO II; Camiguin Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAMELCO); Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO); FLECO; Lanao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LANECO); Misamis Oriental II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO II); and Zamboanga del Sur II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMSURECO II).

Also included in the latest report of the AMGD are the P12.85-million loan of MORESCO I for its modular generator set and the P50-million short-term credit facility loan of LANECO. The NEA processed the aforementioned loans using the funds earmarked for its Enhanced Lending Program.



NEA Garners Recognition from Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG)

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) received an award from the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) for being one of the top-ranking state-owned corporations in terms of its Corporate Governance Scorecard for calendar year 2022.



Present to accept the award at the GOCC Governance Awards Ceremony were (from left) NEA Department Manager for Management and Consultancy Services Office Luisa Hernandez, Corporate Secretary Atty. Gwen Enciso-Kyamko, Deputy Administrator (DA) for Legal Services Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee, Board Member Agustin Maddatu, Acting DA for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Atty. Vic Alvaro, and Strategic Planning Division Manager Lino S.J. Vermudo, Jr.

The GCG is the central policy-making and regulatory body mandated to safeguard the state's rights and ensure that the operations of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) are transparent and responsive to the needs of the public.

The GOCC Governance Awards Ceremony was held on 20 November 2023, at the PICC Complex in Pasay City.



NEA HOPES I-PURE PROJECTS WILL BOOST... *from page 2*

Administrator Almeda, meanwhile, acknowledged the support of Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO), which has already been helping its fellow co-ops nearby, such as the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO).

I-PURE Mindanao was accomplished through a grant from the European Union-Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (EU-ASEP) in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE), the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and various local government units.

The projects have so far energized at least 3,077 off-grid households out of the 5,261 targets through photovoltaic mainstreaming under the franchise areas of Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO) and South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II).

According to the NEA Renewable Energy Development Division, the remaining 2,184 electrification projects are still ongoing through the Barangay Line Enhancement Program under the service area of Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TAWELCO).

“As I have stated before, power precedes progress. With the various components of this endeavor, we are able to provide not only access to electricity, but also a means of livelihood to the communities here in Mindanao,” Administrator Almeda said.

The NEA chief thanked the EU-ASEP and everyone involved in the success of the I-PURE projects, which he considered as important milestones in the history of the rural electrification program. *“It is my hope to implement more projects like this,”* the Administrator added.

NEA SUSTAINS QUALITY SERVICES... *from page 1*

“The audit team confirms in line with the audit targets that the organization’s management system complies with, adequately maintains and implements the requirements of the standard(s),” TÜV said in its initial audit report.

Listed among the “positive findings” of the certification body are the recognitions received by the NEA this year, including an award, issued last 20 November 2023, by the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) for being one of the top-ranking government-owned and -controlled corporations for 2022.

The Agency was also compliant in terms of energy efficiency based on the 2022 Energy Audit Spot Check of the Department of Energy (DOE) with total electricity savings of 185,600 kWh. It likewise earned an “unmodified opinion” from the Commission on Audit (COA) for fiscal year 2022.

The auditors also found it “noteworthy” that the NEA facilitated a 100-percent resolution of the 490 citizens’ concerns within the recommended 72-hour window, citing the January to November 2023 data of hotline “8888.”

Other commendable improvements include “having a dashboard monitoring tool” to track the progress of state-funded projects being implemented under the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP), as well as the “conduct of virtual pre-assessment/meeting before deciding to travel to ECs.”

Apart from a few observations and opportunities for enhancement, TÜV Rheinland Philippines, Inc. found zero nonconformity in the business processes of NEA. The certification body has set the due date for its next audit on 12 December 2024.

Achieving an ISO 9001:2015 certificate ensures that organizations meet the global QMS standards. It is considered a vital instrument to every company in both the private and public sectors to sustain and/or improve the quality of its services as well as boost customer satisfaction consistently.

News Around the ECs

RESOLUTION OF CO-OP ISSUES PART OF TOP NEA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR CY 2023

National Electrification Administration (NEA) chief Antonio Mariano Almeda highlighted the resolution of power supply problems and other issues faced by electric cooperatives (ECs) in Benguet, Occidental Mindoro, and Maguindanao among the major accomplishments of the Agency this 2023.

The Administrator delivered his report during a thanksgiving gathering hosted by the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) last 18 December 2023. He noted in particular the improved electricity situation in Occidental Mindoro after a period of crisis.

"The pressure was not only coming from the people of Occidental Mindoro. From what I have seen when I went there, talagang nakakaawa, ang init-init sa (it was really heartbreaking, it was so hot in) Mindoro... Imagine 20 hours of brownout? So, we came up with solutions," Administrator Almeda said.

The NEA worked with Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMECO) and its electricity provider, the Occidental Mindoro Consolidated Power Corporation (OMCPC), to expedite key energy generation projects in the area to secure much-needed power supply.

Last 22 November 2023, the Administrator revisited the province to inspect the OMCPC agrivoltaic farm, among other power plants, which is expected for commissioning later this month. The solar plant is already 92 percent complete, according to the NEA chief, citing latest report he received.

The completion and commissioning of the solar power plant will pave the way for an application with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to grant a provisional authority in favor of the power supply agreement between OMECO and OMCPC, making them eligible to apply for the universal charge for missionary electrification (UCME) subsidy.

The Administrator also welcomed the restoration of industrial peace in Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) following the reinstatement of Engr. Melchor Licoben as general manager (GM). Licoben was part of Task Force BENECO, who teamed up with the NEA to settle a leadership dispute in the co-op.

"Gusto ko lang naman, namin, maiayos ang (We only wanted to fix) BENECO," Administrator Almeda said. The NEA executive thanked Licoben and the rest of the task force for not giving up, thus bringing a sense of normalcy back in the Baguio City-based power co-op.

Further, Administrator Almeda is grateful for ECs mostly in Mindanao, which answered his call and extended their support to Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO). He proudly noted that its distribution services and collection efficiency are now improving because of upgraded facilities.

"Ang mga taga-Mindanao, hindi ako naniniwalang ayaw magbayad (ng kuryente). Gusto lang po nila malinaw ang binabayaran nila (I don't believe that the people of Mindanao do not want to pay for electricity. They only want to be clear on what they are paying for)," the NEA chief said.

Administrator Almeda expressed similar appreciation for ECs in Central Luzon under Task Force Kapatid, which promptly responded to aid the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) when it grappled with the aftermath of Super Typhoon "Egay" (Doksuri) back in July.

"I found in NEA (and) in our cooperatives what the word 'brotherhood' means; what it means to love and support (each other) that whenever (help) is needed, you will not have second thoughts. Thank you," Administrator Almeda told EC officials and employees present at the PHILRECA gathering.

NEA ENJOINS POWER CO-OPS TO STAY ON TRACK OF 2024-2028 CONSUMER CONNECTIONS TARGET

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) has instructed all 121 electric cooperatives (ECs) to comply with the 2024-2028 projected number of potential consumer connections in pursuit of its accelerated total electrification plan.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda signed a memorandum dated 12 December 2023, encouraging the ECs to harmonize their targets and monitor accomplishments towards the aforesaid goal in line with the Local Total Electrification Roadmap and the Distribution Development Plan.

According to its 2028 Total Electrification Plan, the state-owned corporation seeks to increase potential consumer connections under EC service areas nationwide by 1,359,610. This is based on calculated data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and application of linear programming.

Detailed projections for each power co-op using the Connections Data Entry Template (DET) shall be uploaded on the NEA-Business Intelligence Technology portal and the Barangay Energization Matrix (BEM) by January 2024.

In a separate memo dated 15 December 2023, the NEA said the BEM template was improved to streamline the Connections DET, identify electrification solutions to energize each barangay, and find those with low level of electrification for possible prioritization and funding allocation, among others.

Each EC will be rated accordingly, subject to the implementing guidelines of the Annual EC Overall Performance Assessment, under the "Level of Electrification" parameter, the NEA noted in both memos addressed to Institutional Services Department (ISD) managers.

The state-owned corporation tasked Acting Program Control Section Head Jovani Lagon from the Database Management and Program Control Division (DMPCD) as point person to assist the ECs and address their concerns related to the orders.

The NEA has already made available for download the projected number of potential consumer connections per city/municipality/barangay as well as the enhanced BEM template.

According to the October 2023 Status of Energization report of the Agency, there are at least 16,281,177 potential consumer connections under the franchise areas of ECs, based on the 2020 PSA census.

News Around the ECs

NEA, PELCO I CELEBRATE STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Officials from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) attended a special gathering hosted by the Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO I) on 28 December 2023, to celebrate another year of strong partnership.



Deputy Administrator (DA) for EC Management Services Atty. Omar Mayo and Board Member (BM) Agustin Maddatu led the NEA officials and employees present during the ceremony held at the PELCO-I SMCGP Knowledge Center in Santo Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga.

In his remarks, the DA thanked PELCO I for sending electric meters and other forms of support to their fellow cooperatives in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

“PELCO I has done great things, not only for its constituents, its member-consumers within the franchise area... Maraming salamat at hindi rito natatapos ang tulong ninyo”, DA Mayo said.



BM Maddatu, for his part, noted that it was *“with immense pride and joy”* that he also got to celebrate with some of the officials and employees of both institutions. He credits PELCO I for being a reliable partner of the NEA in bringing sustainable development through rural electrification.

PELCO I is rated AAA by the NEA and classified as a mega large EC. It serves the municipalities of Arayat, Candaba, Magalang, Mexico, San Luis and Santa Ana in Pampanga.

MORE FILIPINOS...*from page 1*

Nine projects listed under “Component 1” covered the agriculture and fishing industries in the aforementioned provinces, which have been accomplished within the period of 02 March 2023 to 25 September 2023.

The Component 1 projects include two solar-powered corn processing facilities in the municipalities of Arakan and Kidapawan, as well as a solar-powered rice miller in Tulunan, North Cotabato, all under the service area of Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO).

There are also solar-powered corn and coffee processing facilities in the municipalities of Bagumbayan and Kalamansig, respectively, plus two separate solar-powered water systems in Sen. Ninoy Aquino and Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, which are within the area of the Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO).

Another solar-powered water system was likewise installed in Picong, Lanao del Norte by MinDA, with the local government unit and community-based organizations, and a solar-assisted seaweeds dryer in Sitangkai and Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi, courtesy of the Mindanao State University (MSU) Tawi-Tawi.

“Component 2” of the I-PURE project energized 1,500 homes via photovoltaic mainstreaming (PVM) systems implemented through COTELCO; 1,577 PVM households were also electrified through South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II). These began in December 2021 and were finalized on 30 September 2022.

Meanwhile, around 2,184 homes in East Sibutu and Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi—under the service area of Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TAWELCO)—also stand to benefit in the ongoing Barangay Line Enhancement and Household Electrification project. This is tied to the Renewable Energy Technology for Seaweeds (RETS) value-added project between the EU, MinDA, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and local stakeholders in the said island communities.

“Component 3” of the I-PURE initiative deals with project management, education, and communication-related activities, as well as capacity building programs for people in the beneficiary communities.

The NEA, ECs, and other organizations involved in the implementation of the I-PURE projects are expected to gather in a closing ceremony to be hosted by SUKELCO in Sultan Kudarat this November to wrap up all deliverables in the program.

The EU-ASEP earmarked a total of EUR 4,499,999.36 (roughly PhP 270.6 Million) to carry out the program aimed at improving the economic and social conditions of families in the most marginalized and disadvantaged communities of Mindanao through alternative and sustainable sources of energy.

Employees Corner

PROMOTION / HIRING

Congratulations to the following 9 NEA employees, comprising 8 promotions and 1 new hire for the fourth quarter of 2023:

PROMOTED



ALVARO, VIC P.
Deputy Administrator
Office of the Deputy Administrator
for Corporate Resources and
Financial Services



ALAMILLO, ROSIE M.
Department Manager A
Accounts Management and Guarantee
Department



APOSTOL, IMEE G.
Division Manager A
Finance Services Department



NAPILOT, RAYMOND M.
Division Manager A
Engineering Department (TEREDD)



BARRIENTOS, RAFAEL B.
Senior Public Relations Officer
Corporate Communications and Social
Marketing Office



ABLEN, MARK EXEQUIEL A.
Supervising Engineer A
Engineering Department (DRRMD)



OLLAGANGI, JEROSALIE KRISTINE L
Senior Loans Analyst A
Accounts Management and Guarantee
Department



ARGUILLES, ANGELIE L.
Electric Cooperative Development Officer A
Institutional Development Department

HIRED



MESINA, ELOISA LYNNE DR.
Internal Control Officer A
Internal Audit and Quality Standards
Management Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORIENTATION AND CONSULTATION



The NEA-EC Training Institute (NETI) and the Corporate Communications and Social Marketing Office (CCSMO) organized a Freedom of Information (FOI) orientation and consultation last 26 September 2023 at the NEA-HES Auditorium in Quezon City.

Legal Services Office Department Manager and Committee on FOI Chair, Atty. Vic Alvaro, welcomed the resource speakers from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), who delivered the seminar to the participating NEA employees.

PCO Lead Compliance Officer Ms. Patricia Marri Maranan of the FOI Project Management Office discussed the program with Compliance Monitoring Officer Ms. Dianne Gammad, who outlined the FOI requirements. Meanwhile, Project Development Officer Ms. Frances Paula Libo-on presented the eFOI Portal Walkthrough.

NEA Deputy Administrator for Legal Services Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee thanked the PCO team for reacquainting the electrification agency and its workforce on the importance of FOI. NEA supports PCO in its continuing efforts to advocate for the Filipinos' right to information.

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