

NEA electrifies 3,335 sitios in 2016

The National Electrification Administration (NEA), in partnership with the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) nationwide, takes pride in electrifying 3,335 sitios in 2016 with a total fund outlay of Php2.7 billion from the government's Sitio Electrification Program (SEP).



A house at the top of the mountain in Sitio Nompolia, Hungduan, Ifugao and a school in a far-flung area in Sitio Malipayon, Sagay City, Negros Occidental are among the beneficiaries of electricity from the government's Sitio Electrification Program (SEP).

Under the supervision of the Department of Energy (DOE), the state-run agency has exceeded the target of 3,150 by 185 sitios. Electrification of these sitios has brought electricity to about 100,050 more households benefitting approximately 500,250 Filipinos nationwide.

Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong said, "The continued intensification of rural electrification is in line with the administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's thrust of aggressively pursuing economic programs that would reduce, if not eliminate, poverty incidence in the country especially in the rural areas through the provision of reliable, efficient and cheap electricity."

For 2017, NEA has identified around 23,713 unenergized sitios in the EC coverage areas for energization within the next five and half years or earlier. Electrification of these sitios will require some Php35.57 billion at an estimated amount of Php1.5 million per sitio.

To improve service reliability to member-consumers-owners of the ECs, NEA has also undertaken line enhancement in 181 barangays nationwide with a total budget of Php1.031 billion in 2016. Most of these projects were within the coverage areas of Region VIII ECs namely Samelco I, Esamelco, and Norsamelco with 54 barangays for line enhancement. Likewise, six ECs, namely the Biselco, Omeco, Ileo III, Noneco, Boheco II, and Surseco II, upgraded their distribution system through submarine cable facilities benefiting 11 barangays in their respective areas with an aggregate project cost of Php271.77 million.

▶ page 2

Power coops post another record low system loss average in 2016

More electric cooperatives (ECs) reduced their system losses (SL) last year, resulting in a record low average of 10.99%, down 0.13% from the 11.12% average they posted in 2015.

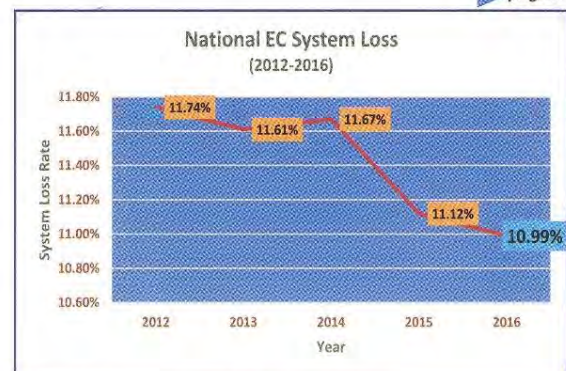
Latest data released by the NEA Engineering Department showed that 42 ECs registered single-digit SL average in 2016, while 53 others stayed within the 13% cap set by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

System loss is the difference between energy input and energy output.

The top five ECs in terms of low SL averages as of December 2016 are the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Moresco I) at 2.14%, Siasi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Siaselco) at 4.77%, Dinagat Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Dielco) at 5.31%, Iloilo III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Ileo III) at 5.95%, and the Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Boheco I) at 6.07%.

These ECs registered SL rates way below the cap set by ERC at 13% for ECs. Likewise, they posted rates lower than the standard cap for private distribution utilities at 8.5%. Their SL rates were also comparable to international

▶ page 5



IN THE NEWS

Administrator Masongsong inducts Federation of MSEAC members p. 2

Standard signage for ECs introduced p. 3

TF Duterte Lanao Sur p. 3

New hydro power plant to generate 250 MW p. 7



NEA extends Php2.434B loans to power coops

NEA has extended Php2.434 billion loans to 56 electric cooperatives (ECs) in 2016 to finance their rural electrification projects through its various loan windows, exceeding the agency's target of Php1.7B.

This amount includes the Php603 million calamity loans availed of by 15 ECs for the rehabilitation of their distribution lines damaged by typhoons Lawin, Ferdie, Karen, Yolanda, Lando, and Nona. These ECs include Abreco, Beneco, Kaelco, Batanelco, Cagelco I, Aurelco, Omeco, Romelco, Ormeco, Lubelco, Maselco, Soreco I and II, Norsamelco and Bileco.

Provision of reliable and efficient electricity service to electricity consumers in the grassroots level is of the priority thrusts of the Administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. Hence, to pursue this end, the Department of Energy (DOE) through the auspices of the NEA, continues to innovate and formulate strategic and more responsive measures that will aggressively address their urgent needs.

The onslaught of Typhoon Lawin in Northern Luzon in October 2016 strengthened the DOE-NEA-ECs triumvirate when massive efforts for power restoration and rehabilitation works were done in the areas covered by Abreco, Beneco, Aurelco, Cagelco I & II, Kaelco, among others.

Energy Secretary and NEA Board Chair Alfonso G. Cusi said, "Our priority is to ensure that people in the typhoon-affected areas be served with electricity at the earliest time possible. The DOE, in coordination with NEA, has organized and mobilized personnel to rehabilitate distribution lines and fast track power restoration through the Task Force Kapatid (TFK) operations to work double-time, especially in hard-hit areas".

Aside from the mobilization of the institutionalized-Task Force Kapatid (TFK), NEA extended calamity loans to the Lawin-devastated ECs amounting to some Php119M in order to accelerate their recovery and subsequently effect immediate electricity service to member-consumer-owners.

Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong said, "NEA continually pursue the causes of the ECs and its member-consumer-owners (MCOs). The Agency is constantly innovating and has been re-aligning its programs with the present

Administrator Masongsong inducts Federation of MSEAC Members



Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong administered the Oath of Office of the members of the Federation of Multi-Sectoral Electrification Advisory Council (MSEAC) after the formal organization of the group on at the Eastland Hotel in Gingoog City on February 25, 2017.

The Administrator delivered a message that included the NEA's 7-point agenda, the Electricity Consumer Empowerment Program (MCEP) and the newly organized National Center of the Electric Cooperative Consumers (NCECCO).

The organization of the Federation of MSEAC coincided with the holding of seminar on Enhanced Role of the

Multi-Sectoral Electrification Advisory Council (MSEAC) and the Member-Consumer-Owner (MCO) Empowerment Program hosted by the Misamis Oriental II Electric Service Cooperative, Inc. (Moresco II). There were 88 MSEAC members who participated in the seminar, together with Board Members and Management Staff of Moresco II led by Board President Crisanto Calingin and OIC-General Manager Ronel Cañada. #

administration's policy directions to better address the needs and protect the welfare and rights of the consumers, especially the poorest of poor."

"The NEA officials and employees feel the needs of the rural folks. We are committed to give them fair chances for a more comfortable life through provision of fast and better service. Our fervent prayer is that the National Government will continue to recognize the significance of NEA and the Rural Electrification (RE) Program in the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of the people in rural communities," he added.

Calamity loans offered by NEA is normally processed within six days with 3.25% interest per annum, and a repayment period of 10 years but not to exceed the remaining franchise life of the EC. #

NEA electrifies ... from page 1

Meanwhile, NEA is thankful to the President, and the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives for guaranteeing funding support for the Program with the inclusion of some Php1.8B in the approved 2017 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the electrification of 2,410 sitios for 2017.

Administrator added, "NEA is the vanguard of the RE Program. The men and women of NEA remain steadfast in their roles of bringing light and hope to the people through rural electrification. We are one in ensuring that every single Filipino in the remotest areas enjoys the benefits of electricity."#

Standard signage for Electric Cooperatives introduced

To strengthen its partnership and reinforce its national identity with Electric Cooperatives, NEA introduced a special logo and one color signage to be displayed in front of the EC headquarters, sub-offices, sub-station offices and other facilities.



The NEA-EC standard signage

The standard layout of the signage is 4 x 8 feet plywood size outdoor tarpaulin and mounted on a ply board, and in order to enhance its display, the use of flood lights or spot lights was strongly suggested.

The signage initiative will be launched during the NEA-EC Consultative Conference and Recognition of Outstanding

Electric Cooperatives with the main goal of promoting NEA's alliance with ECs to member-consumer-owners (MCOs).

Relatedly, NEA also displayed a synchronized congruent signage with the EC standard in front of its headquarters in Quezon City. #

Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power hits the ground running

Barely a month after Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power took over the operations of the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Lasureco), employees of the electric cooperative are now receiving their salaries on time, as Lasureco Acting General Manager Nordjiana Ducol bared plans to rehabilitate the ailing coop.

"As a result of our active collection activities, we are now able to disburse salaries of our employees without delay. This has led to greater commitment from our people to perform efficiently and unify behind Administrator Masongsong's thrust for operational efficiency, transparency and reform," Ducol said.

NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong activated Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power on January 29, 2017 to review Lasureco's governance policies and institute needed reforms in the financial, institutional, and technical areas of the EC operations.

The Task Force is performing the duties and responsibilities of an Electric Cooperative Board of Directors prescribed under NEA Bulletin No. 35. It is headed by NEA Deputy Administrator for Electric Cooperative Management Services Atty. Goldelio Rivera and Co-chaired by Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Sukelco) Board President Ret. General Akmad Mamalinta. Dr. Nordjiana Dipatuan Ducol is designated as Acting General Manager and shall, among others, manage the day-to-day operations of the newly-named EC as Lanao Sur Power to ensure the efficient delivery of service to the member-consumers.

Administrator Masongsong said *"the Task Force will be on top of reinforcing the vision and mission statements of the coop, as well as obtaining commitment building from EC leaders and other stakeholders to hasten the implementation of rural electrification projects in the province."*



Administrator Masongsong meets with the members of the newly-created Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power headed by DA Goldelio Rivera and Co-chaired by Sukelco Board President Ret. General Akmad Mamalinta

According to Acting GM Ducol, collection revenue of the coop surged to PhP 7 million from February 1 to 15, 2017 billing period, as against the PhP 4 million revenue collected from January 1 to 15 of the same year.

She stressed that the high collection rate of the coop is a result of their regular information dissemination and consumer education campaigns, as well as the ongoing computerization of their billing system.



Strict enforcement of good governance policies for electric coops to protect electricity consumers

NEA assured the public on February 20, 2017 that measures are already in place to ensure that power supply agreements (PSAs) and other related contracts entered into by electric cooperatives (ECs) are legal and above-board, in line with presidential directives to protect the interests of electricity consumers.

According to NEA Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong, the NEA "is focused on ensuring that all dealings of the ECs are fair and transparent, and reflect the Administration's commitment to implement pro-people reforms."

"These efforts," added the former legislator from Mindanao, "are consistent with the directives of President Rodrigo R. Duterte and Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi, who want us to prioritize the welfare and interests of power consumers."

Masongsong said that the NEA has formulated and will now implement policies operationalizing the existing guidelines for the Competitive Selection Process (CSP) of the PSAs of ECs.

"This is necessary in order to ensure that ECs observe appropriate procurement procedures, including transparent and competitive bidding, in the conduct of their operations," stressed the NEA chief.

"We believe that this will deter contract rigging and foster efficient, transparent, and public competition in the power

supply procurement of the ECs, thereby lowering the costs of EC operations and ultimately benefiting electricity consumers."

The said policies, emphasized Masongsong, are pursuant to Republic Act 10531, otherwise known as the National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013, which authorizes and empowers the NEA to develop, set, and enforce institutional and governance standards for the efficient operation of the ECs. Based on these guidelines, ECs are now directed to submit the Terms of Reference (TOR) in their power supply procurement or their PSAs for the review and approval of the NEA prior to publication or posting of their invitations to bid.

Bidding procedures are likewise directed to be conducted in open and public venues that encourage attendance and participation from local government units, non-government offices, and business groups within the coverage area of the EC. Video documentation of the said procedures by the ECs have likewise been required by the NEA. #

NEA sets risk reduction, intervention plans to boost electric coops' performance

In a bid to boost the performance of the electric cooperatives in terms of resiliency to natural calamities, NEA is setting up an EC Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan (EC-CDRRMP) that will operationalize medium and long-term strategies in ensuring the stability and resiliency of EC distribution system facilities in times of calamities.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said, "The NEA is developing the EC-CDRRMP to capacitate ECs in the light of climate change. Included in the plan is the establishment of a process for the conduct of a Vulnerability Risk Assessment (VRA) and the development of an Emergency Restoration Planning (ERP) which are geared towards the rehabilitation or restoration of identified critical assets of the ECs and the guaranteeing of EC viability through business continuity planning."

Consultations with the ECs are being done to make the plan, realistic, responsive and dynamic.

The Policy on ECs' Resiliency Program states that VRA is an effective tool that can be used by an EC to identify its critical assets, determine the probable vulnerability of such critical assets in relation to natural and/or man-made calamities, and define proactive measures for the protection, backup or replacement of those critical assets which have high probability of damage or destruction due to natural and/or man-made disasters or calamities.

The ERP, on the other hand, provides details on how to efficiently restore the EC's system in the event of an isolated or system-wide outage resulting from a major disaster or calamity. It defines the chain of command and delegation of authority and responsibility of EC officers and employees before, during, and after the occurrence of a disaster or calamity."

Alongside measures to mitigate effects of climate change on ECs' distribution systems facilities, NEA is also actively working to turn around the operations of ECs classified as B, C, and D or ailing.

Specifically, Administrator Masongsong has issued a directive to form teams that will be assigned in ailing cooperatives at a given period to study possible options of bringing their performance rating higher.

Administrator Masongsong said, "To be able to give better service to our power consumers, we need first to come up with measures directly addressing the operational performance of the ECs. We need to ensure the reliability of their technical systems, make more responsive their institutional services initiatives, and improve their capital build-up mechanisms to position themselves as electric distribution utilities that can surely meet the growing expectations of their member-owner-consumers."

The Administrator has gathered 24 ECs, categorized as B, C on January 5-6 for a priority development planning. He likewise facilitated a Strategic Planning on January 13 to 14 for Abreco, Inec, Iseco, Luelco and Beneco.

For Calendar Year 2015, NEA's Overall Performance Assessment has shown improved ratings of ECs, of which 70 were rated AAA as against 56 in 2014.

The ECs' Performance Assessment, which is anchored on Republic Act 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), and Republic Act 10531, or the National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013, aims to measure the performance of the ECs using financial, institutional, and technical (FIT) performance indicators and standards.

The performance rating is based on two criteria, namely the Key Performance Standards (80%) and Electric Cooperatives Classification (20%).#

NEA secures JICA assistance to support Mindanao energy needs

NEA Chief Edgardo R. Masongsong welcomed on March 30, 2017 the financial aid from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) worth 771 million yen or roughly Php 340 million to support energy needs in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas.

Masongsong said, "as NEA continues to pursue its vision of sustaining rural development, we welcome JICA's assistance in firming up our partnership to achieve social inclusivity for the country and support the government's peace and development programs for Mindanao."

"This is a step further in our thrust to trickle down basic government services to far-flung communities through the Rural Electrification Program and sustain economic progress as envisioned by President Rodrigo R. Duterte."

The financial assistance will benefit six electric cooperatives in the Bangsamoro region, namely the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Magelco), Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Lasureco)/Lanao Sur Power, Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Baselco), Sulu Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Suleco), Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Tawelco), and Siasi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Siaselco).

These ECs will receive boom trucks, distribution transformers, concrete and steel poles, and electric wires to allow them to improve their power quality, systems efficiency and reliability, and help them respond to expected load growth.

According to Masongsong, "the foreign aid will be a big boost towards minimizing systems losses incurred from the ECs'

aging distribution facilities, and accelerating the electrification rate in the region, especially in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)."

"NEA is one with the thrust of President Duterte in increasing the Moros' share of national wealth," he said.

"As an agency committed to uphold and protect the interest of the electricity consumers, NEA continues to be in the frontline of providing services to ECs, ranging from legal, institutional, financial, and technical assistance, to capacitate them to better serve their Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs)."

Per latest report, the status of electrification in Mindanao is at 75%, while only 38% of the households in the ARMM region are energized.

To improve the overall performance of distressed ECs in Mindanao, NEA has as of late formed two task forces to take over the management of Lanao Sur Power and the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Daneco) and effect transparency and reform in their operations. #

Power coops post another record ... from page 1

industry standards particularly in Asian countries like Japan, Korea, China and others that range from 3% to 5%.

Having been conferred the Diamond EC Award, Moresco I has set the bar of operational efficiency for ECs. It has always been a benchmark of technical efficiency particularly in SL reduction which it attributed to the use of energy-efficient transformers and other equipment, conduct of preventive maintenance, regular inspection of DX lines, meter calibration of large commercial and industrial loads, continuous capacitating of technical manpower to do Hotline Works that allows crew to do operation and maintenance with no need for interruption, right of way clearing, line scanning, pilferage detection and apprehension, periodic change of meter, pole metering and consumer awareness program.

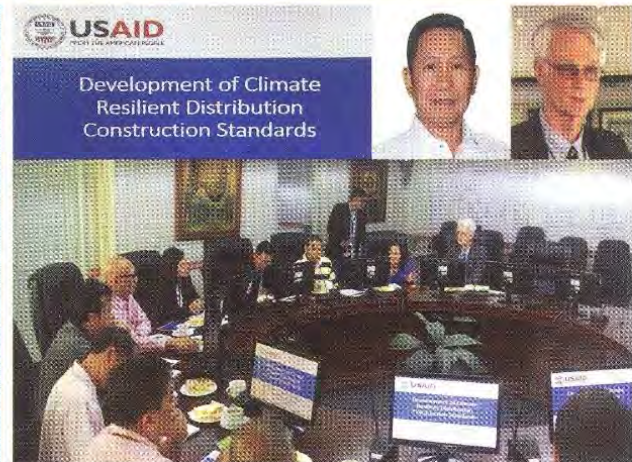
Siaselco and the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Magelco) showed the most dramatic improvement in 2016 as they cut back on their system losses by more than half their average the previous year, from 10.22% to 4.77% for Siaselco and 27.34% to 11.87% for Magelco.

Nine other ECs also managed to bring down their system loss averages from double digits in 2015 to under 10% last year, including the Aneco, Akelco, Batelec-II, Quezelco II, Romelco, Nuvelco, Neecco II-Area I, Surneco, and Socoteco II.

By region, the ECs in Central Visayas continued to post the lowest system loss average at 8.48%, followed by those in Northern Mindanao at 8.75%, Central Luzon at 8.97%, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) at 9.58%, and Caraga at 9.64%.

page 6

NRECA presents resiliency study to NEA



Mr. Jim Vancoevering, NRECA Consultant, presents to Administrator Masongsong and other NEA officers on 15 February 2017 the "Storm Resistant Distribution Code Standards", a technical study conducted by the International Resources Group in partnership with NRECA under the "Building Low Emissions Alternative to Develop Economic Resilience Sustainability Project" (BLEADERS) of USAID, Phils.

The first phase dwells on the "Analysis of Performance of Existing Distribution Line Standards using High Wind Conditions" which project output Mr. Vancoevering shared for NEA's consideration in crafting policies for the Electric Cooperatives in gearing up for resilient power lines in the country.

page 7



Southern Leyte seeks NEA backing for total electrification of Limasawa

The provincial government of Southern Leyte reiterated its appeal for the complete energization of the island of Limasawa, which the National Electrification Administration (NEA) acknowledged through its chief Edgardo Masongsong.



Administrator Masongsong pays a courtesy visit to the leaders of the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte in Limasawa and discusses with them how NEA can assist in the momentous celebration of the 500th anniversary of the First Mass in 2021.

Administrator Masongsong recognized the significance of this request as the municipality is gearing up for the quinentennial anniversary of the historic first Catholic Mass in the Philippines four years from now.

The Administrator said, "the need to address the proposal is urgent most especially since the 500th anniversary of the First Mass on 2021 is fast approaching."

Limasawa marked the 496th anniversary of the birth of Christianity in the country last March 31, 2017 through a commemorative mass officiated by Bishop Precioso Cantillas of the Diocese of Maasin.

The Administrator graced the event upon the invitation

TF Duterte Lanao Sur ...from page 3

A quick response team, she said, was likewise formed "to respond to customer complaints and queries within two hours, or as early as possible, and mobilize ground personnel to inspect dilapidated electric poles, overloaded kWh meters, and faulty wiring system."

Ducol said "all these measures aimed at intensifying our revenue generating capacity have helped us provide better working conditions for our employees and motivate them to be our partners in the rural electrification initiatives."

According to Administrator Masongsong, "NEA is effecting these reforms not only to boost the morale of the coop's employees, but ultimately cushion the Member-Consumer-Owners from undue harm brought about by a number of operational challenges that have hounded Lasureco."

"Through Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power, we hope to finally consolidate a good governance platform that will be aligned to the agenda of President Rodrigo Duterte to uplift the lives of the Filipinos, especially the poorest of the poor." #

of Southern Leyte Governor Damian Mercado, Congressman Roger Mercado, Libagon Mayor Oliver Ranque, Limasawa Mayor Nilo Petracorta and Vice Mayor Melchor Petracorta.

In their respective messages, Mercado and Mayor Petracorta called for the total electrification of Limasawa to ensure a reliable and efficient power supply beyond the current 12- to 16-hour rotation.

Both officials also pressed for the installation of a submarine cable from the mainland, which Mercado already discussed with Masongsong during their meeting at the provincial capitol last March 30.

The governor sought the assistance of NEA to purchase the equipment as it has been announced that a cruise ship from Spain will arrive in Limasawa on March 31, 2021 to honor the momentous occasion.

This early, commemorative structures have reportedly been built on the island including the replica of the First Mass and the 450 flights of stairs that legendary Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan took to plant the First Cross.

Southern Leyte has also been working closely with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Transportation to complete the construction of the Maasin City airport and a port on the other side of Limasawa in preparation for the influx of tourists.

Administrator Masongsong lauded such developments as these would certainly drive the economy of the province. He said the Limasawa Island of Southern Leyte has been blessed with some of the best diving sites in the world hence there is no doubt its tourism industry will continue to grow. #

Power coops post ... from page 5

NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong welcomed this development, as the reduction in the system loss of the ECs remains one of the major policy thrusts of the Agency under his administration.

"Electric cooperatives must continue to implement measures that would keep their systems loss average at the minimum to ease the burden on their consumers who are forced to shoulder it," Masongsong said.

Significant reductions in systems losses allow the ECs to become operationally efficient and be of better service to their member-consumers. A low system loss often leads to lower electricity rates. #

New hydropower plant to generate 250 MW for Bukidnon

In a bid to ensure reliable supply of electricity in Mindanao, First Bukidnon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FIBECO) and Pulangui Hydro Power Corporation (PHPC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 8 to kick off the construction of the 250-MW Pulangui 5 hydro power plant in Bukidnon.

Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and National Electrification Administration (NEA) Chief Edgardo Masongsong were on hand during the signing ceremony at Solaire Resorts and Casino, Pasay City.

"The construction of Pulangui 5 will be the beginning of the realization of our goal to jumpstart economic activity in Mindanao and ensure sustainable power supply for the country," said Masongsong, who, like Sen. Zubiri is from Mindanao.

According to the NEA chief, the NEA and its partner electric cooperatives are actively involved in securing investments in power plant projects "not only to address our growing energy requirements, but also to achieve the social and economic change envisioned by President Rodrigo R. Duterte for the country."

The Pulangui 5 hydro power plant, valued at US\$800 million, is expected to be completed by 2021.



Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and Administrator Masongsong witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FIBECO and Pulangui Hydro Power Corporation (PHPC) for the construction of the 240-MW Pulangui 5 Hydro Power Plant

According to Masongsong, "FIBECO will be part owner of the power plant, with shares of stock under negotiation." He stressed that the construction of Pulangui 5 is in line with the thrust of the NEA to generate greater efficiencies in the

power distribution system of the electric cooperatives.

"Revenues from the project will contribute to the reduction of power rates for electricity consumers in the franchise of the EC." #

TFK Nina, Lawin complete ... from page 8

control and mitigation measures, to the setting up of communication protocols, and the guaranteeing of stocking and material availability," he said.

He added that policy options are also being studied to further streamline the processing of calamity loans for availing ECs. Calamity loans offered by NEA are normally processed within six days, and bear 3.25% interest per annum, with a repayment period of 10 years but not exceeding the remaining franchise life of the EC.

As of March 31, NEA has already extended Php223.45 million in calamity loans to seven Nina-affected ECs, namely CASURECO I (Php11.81M), CASURECO II (Php24.24M), CASURECO III (Php20.58M), CASURECO IV (Php62.29M), FICELCO (Php42.65M), MARELCO (Php20M), and ORMECO

(Php41.88 M).

These ECs are given a maximum grace period of one year to settle their loan obligations, while the amount of loan to be extended depends on the evaluated cost of the rehabilitation and restoration project and the availability of the funds of the NEA.

As regard, Typhoon Kapatid Lawin which commenced in October 2016 to restore power in typhoon-affected areas in Cagayan Valley, the TFK completed its operation in the areas covered by Cagelco I, Kaelco, Iselco II and Abreco last February 20, 2016.

Some 835 TFK members from 39 ECs in Regions I, II, III, IV, V and VIII and 12 PDUs braved challenging situations to immediately rehabilitate lines and restore power in the areas that affected some 1,597,574 consumers.#

NRECA presents ...from page 5

Currently, NEA is developing a Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Program (CDRMP) for the Electric Cooperatives (ECs). This is in line with the Agency's pursuit for a resilient and disaster-ready ECs in order to efficiently cater the needs of their member-consumer-owners (MCOs). The USAID-NRECA project study is aimed at providing substantial inputs in the design and development of appropriate distribution construction material standards that will address the present climate phenomenon.

Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong said, *"The people deserve no less. It is our responsibility to capacitate the ECs towards an efficient, reliable, cheap and safe electricity service. Thus, a Project like this is very timely and appreciated as NEA is preparing to help the ECs confront the challenges brought about by unforeseen calamities and disasters."* #



Task Force Kapatid Nina, Lawin complete power restoration

Time-tested Task Force Kapatid (TFK) completed its power restoration works for Nina-hit areas and Lawin-devastated localities during the first quarter of 2017.



TFK operation in Iselco I



Other contingent in Ormecho

TFK-Nina included contingents from the NEA, 53 electric cooperatives (ECs), and 8 private distribution utilities (PDUs) deployed in the various coverage areas of the eight ECs that were hit the hardest by typhoon Nina. These eight ECs are Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I), Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO), Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO), Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO II), Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III), Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO IV), Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO), and First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO).

As of January 24, 2017, TFK has already energized 1,512,847 households out of the total of 1,683,012, bringing power restoration level to 89.9%. Meanwhile, cities and municipalities under the franchise areas of the 16 affected ECs are 98.31% electrified.

NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said, "Task Force Kapatid will always be indispensable to our efforts to alleviate the plight of our electricity consumers who are often caught in the crosshairs of typhoons and other natural calamities. NEA and the electric cooperatives cannot be in a wait-and-see mode. We always have to be on our toes to ensure that after a calamity strikes, power is restored at the soonest possible time."

"NEA is continuously pursuing service innovations to demonstrate its commitment to uplift the lives of the rural Filipinos. We are one with President Rodrigo R. Duterte in his clarion call to uphold the welfare of the people, especially the poorest of the poor," he added.

Meanwhile, Administrator Masongsong also said that an EC Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan (EC-CDRRMP) is also being finalized by the NEA following a directive from Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi to come up with disaster protocols that will lessen the impact of damages to electric infrastructures and accelerate power restoration in calamity-hit areas.

Specifically, the EC-CDRRMP intends to operationalize medium and long-term strategies in ensuring the stability and resiliency of EC distribution system facilities in times of calamities through the conduct of Vulnerability Risk Assessment (VRA) and the development of Emergency Restoration Planning (ERP).

According to the Administrator, "VRA is geared towards the rehabilitation or restoration of identified critical assets of the ECs, while ERP will be used for the guaranteeing of EC viability through business continuity planning."

"These standard operating procedures will be our basis on how to respond to emergency situations and effectively carry out post-disaster action review, and as such, will cover every aspect of emergency planning from the establishment of

▶ page 7

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDGARDO R. MASONGSONG
Executive Editor

JONA E. ANDAL
Managing Editor

ROSARITA E. SALVADOR **RONN ANDREW F. ANGELES**
HECHADEE S. DELA CRUZ **CRIS-ANN G. ODRONIA**
Staffwriters

VICAR LOUREEN G. LOFRANCO
FEDERICO P. VILLAR, JR.
Contributors

BRIAN O. ALEGRE
Artist

RAFAEL B. BARRIENTOS **ERNESTO T. DE VERA**
Photographers

ERNESTO O. SILVANO, JR. **VICTORIA A. SILORIO**
Production

LOURDES S. QUINTERO
RODOLFO R. ROQUE **HILARIO A. DE CASTRO** **ANDRES E. RATIO**
Administrative Support

enerNEA is a quarterly publication of the Public Affairs Office.
Tel: 929-2237 / 929-1909 loc. 153 Email: pao_nea@yahoo.com / nea.pao@gmail.com