



Private sector participation in REP highlighted in Electricity Forum



(Main photo) Ms. Leah Fe Estillore of ASELCO asks on clarification issues on the proposed Policy on the Participation of Private Investors within the EC franchise areas. (Sub-photos) Administrator Edgardo Masongsong with Deputy Administrator Rossan Rosero-Lee, Director Roderick Padua and Atty. Vicar Loureen Lofranco during the two-day activity.

On October 5 to 6, an Electricity Forum was held to shed light on several issues confronting the industry. Some 290 representatives from about 113 electric cooperatives (ECs) participated in a two-day activity at the National Electrification Administration (NEA) building in Quezon City.

The forum was highlighted by the discussion of the proposed policy that would allow private investors to install micro grid systems in EC coverage areas that are yet to be energized or where electricity service is considered unreliable.

The discussion was sparked by the alleged failure of ECs to provide adequate service in some areas as pointed out by Senator Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, while deliberating on the proposed Php4.9-billion budget of the NEA for 2018.

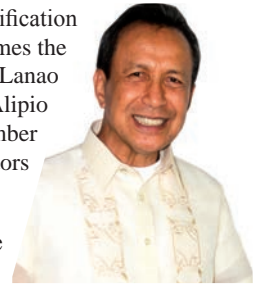
NEA acknowledged this notion and thus required the ECs to submit updated data on remote households or sitios within their coverage areas that remain either unenergized, unserved or underserved.

“Ang reality, matagal na tayo dito, matagal na tayong electric cooperatives— in fact, the ECs have been in existence for the last 30 years up to 48 years— pero bakit daw kailangan pa rin ang gobyerno maglaan ng pera para sa

▶ page 3

NEA welcomes Badelles as new member of the Board

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) welcomes the recent appointment of former Lanao del Norte Representative Alipio Cirilo Badelles as new member to the Board of Administrators (BOA).



Badelles took his oath of office before Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi on October 20, 2017.

Administrator Edgardo Masongsong said Badelles' addition to the NEA Board will be of great help as NEA continues to iron out several issues involving distressed ECs.

“We find in new NEA BOA member Badelles an added partner in addressing the problems of ailing electric cooperatives,” Masongsong said.

“With him, we hope to achieve the President’s desire to prioritize the aspirations of electricity consumers all over the country for a stable, reliable, responsive and cheap electricity service,” the NEA chief added.

▶ page 2

NEA gets ISO 9001: 2015 Recertification

NEA successfully passed the surveillance audit for ISO 9001: 2015 standard. The audit was conducted by TUV Rheinland Philippines, Inc., the third party auditor, on November 21 to 22, 2017.

The recommendation for recertification to the Standard was confirmed through the TUV Rheinland’s letter dated December 6, 2017.

The certificate will be issued after the technical review and approval by Systems Certification Department.

The pursuit of ISO 9001:2015 standard is one of the NEA’s good corporate governance initiatives in the aim of promoting continual improvement of NEA’s services to its main clientele, the Electric Cooperatives (ECs), with the end of efficiently serving their respective Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs).

IN THE NEWS

SEP Summit workshop held p. 2

NEA passes ISO 9001:2015 surveillance audit, receives recertification p. 2

NEA joins in the observance of the 8th National Energy Consciousness Month; celebrates Christmas with NAGMEC p. 4-5

The Administrator in action p. 7



NEA and Tesda ink Memorandum of Understanding

NEA inked anew its cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the provision of training programs for linemen and barangay electricians across the country.



Administrator Edgardo Masongsong and TESDA Director General Guling Mamondiong present the newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the "National Skills Training Program for Linemen and Barangay Electricians" together with other officials of their respective agencies on December 6 at the Board Room of the TESDA Administration Building in Taguig City.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) for this project was signed by NEA Administrator Edgardo Masongsong and TESDA Director General Guling Mamondiong in a simple ceremony held at the TESDA Administration Building in Taguig City on December 6.

SEP Summit Workshop held

A two-day summit workshop on Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) conducted by the NEA convened participants from 21 electric cooperatives in Regions IV-A, IV-B and V.

The objectives of the activity were, among others, to validate the list of unenergized sitios and decide which of these will be electrified using off-grid, PV mainstream or other renewable energy options.

This was held on November 23 to 24, 2017 at the NEA H.E.S. Auditorium in Quezon City. The Workshop was facilitated by Director Ana Rosa D. Papa, Ferdinand P. Villareal, Engr. Ernesto O. Silvano, Jr. and Mr. Rodolfo D. Evangelista of the ITCS, Engineering Department, ORED and Corplan, respectively.

Liquidation of Subsidy-funded Projects

Corollary to the above activity was the conduct of workshop on the liquidation of subsidy-funded projects. This was spearheaded by the Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD) led by Director Leila B. Bonifacio and Manager Lida E. De La Merced.

Liquidation of subsidies for projects previously implemented is a requirement before succeeding subsidy funds will be allocated or released to any EC as per Commission on Audit (COA) guidelines.

The workshop was done to ensure compliance to COA guidelines and accelerate next electrification projects funded by subsidies.

The program aims to capacitate linemen and the barangay electricians with necessary skills to meet the demands and requirements of the electric cooperatives (ECs), especially in times of calamities and disasters.

Masongsong, in his message, thanked TESDA as he expressed his optimism about the partnership.

"I believe itong ginagawa natin sa TESDA, sa NEA, is creating more heroes in day-to-day lives of the Filipino people," the NEA chief said.

The linemen of ECs have earned the brand "Warriors of Light."

For his part, Mamondiong said the cooperation will bring benefits to thousands of Filipinos here and abroad.

"This will create jobs and means of livelihood to hundreds of thousands of Filipino people not just in the country but also abroad. Napakarami po ang nangangailangan ng ganitong trabaho sa abroad," the TESDA chief said.



NEA welcomes ... from page 1

Badelles, whose appointment papers were signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on September 27, replaced Eugene Tan.

"It is more than a privilege in joining NEA which has done so much in rural electrification. I will do my share as a team player in NEA's goal of countryside development," the former congressman said.

A native of Iligan City, Badelles represented the first district of Lanao del Norte for three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2007. He also served as chairman of the House Committee

on Energy and co-chairman of the Joint Congressional Power Commission in the 12th and 13th Congress.

He was also assigned as Vice Consul of the Department of Foreign Affairs to Los Angeles, California from 1987 to 1990. Badelles obtained his law degree at San Beda College in 1973. He is married to Jennifer Lynn Andrada Badelles. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Gender Sensitivity Training



Some 32 participants from different NEA departments attended the two-day Gender Sensitivity Training on December 12 & 13, 2017.

Ms. Marita C. Pimentel of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) discussed the importance of understanding gender as a social construction and probe the role of institutions like NEA in reinforcing and perpetuating gender inequalities. She also tackled the significance of recognizing own personal gender biases as well as confronting gender issues to become more aware of gender myths and facts.

NEA conducts mandatory drug testing to all employees



In compliance with the Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 13, s., 2017, NEA conducted a mandatory drug testing to some 281 officials and employees including Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong.

This project was in support of the national government's call for a drug-free Philippines, particularly in the government bureaucracy.

It was held on December 11, 2017 and was administered by the Asia Pacific Medical Diagnostics, Inc., an agency duly authorized and accredited by the Department of Health (DOH).

The results of which were sent to the Human Resources Management Division (HRMD) for documentation and submission to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

CSC Memo No. 13 provides that any official and employee who, after being tested positive of drug use, shall refuse to undergo treatment or rehabilitation, or fails to complete his/her treatment or rehab program, shall be charged with the administrative offense of Grave Misconduct.

NEA-BIT Training Workshop



Two schools of training workshop on NEA-Business Intelligence Technology or NEA-BIT focusing on the Business Intelligence System and Accounting and Cost Allocation Manual Implementation were conducted on November 21 to 22 and November 27 to 28, 2017, respectively.

They were participated in by some 93 finance and technical personnel from Regions III, IV-A, and IV-B.

The workshops were undertaken to orient and capacitate the participants on the use of the NEA BIT specifically on the Data Entry Templates (DETs).

Resource persons came from Indra, Phils, the system developer.

Electricity Forum ... from page 1

electrification?" Masongsong told the general managers and board of directors.

"Kaya kailangan maglabas tayo ng policy na kung hindi kaya ng ECs i-energize ang mga remote, unenergized, unviable, underserved areas that should be considered waived," the NEA chief said.

Atty. Goldelio Rivera, the NEA Deputy Administrator for EC Management Services, clarified however that the waiver being sought is only limited to the "rights and obligations" of an EC to provide electricity service over certain areas.

"We are very clear that what is to be waived is the rights and obligations to provide (electricity service) not the franchise because the EC is a grantee of a franchise which is a privilege granted by the Congress," Rivera explained.

Basically, the new policy will be following the same principles as the Qualified Third Party (QTP) mechanism of the Department of Energy (DOE) for investors who are interested in putting up power generation and distribution facilities in the far-flung areas.

NEA has stood by its argument that rural electrification is a government program and has to be supported with public funds.

"If government will not fund it, will not subsidize it, then the dream of achieving 100 percent electrification in the country will never be realized unless the private sector will really invest in it even if it's a losing proposition," Masongsong said.

CDA power coops enthusiastic of new NEA direction

Likewise, NEA, as a state-run agency, expressed its commitment to help all ECs even those registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). Administrator Masongsong underscored this message during the activity.

He said, *"Republic Act 10531 is color-blind. It does not distinguish an electric coop's registration. When it comes to administrative supervision of, and the legal, institutional, financial and technical assistance to, distribution utilities, NEA embraces all,"*

"NEA should provide the leadership; NEA should provide the direction and the direction is to make the ECs excellently performing. Kapag sinabi nating excellently performing, 'yung consumer ay hindi lang satisfied, hindi lang delighted but pleasantly surprised of what's happening in the EC, the NEA chief added.

National Energy Consciousness Month (NECM)



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(1) DOE headed by Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi together with the leaders of the Energy family including NEA Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong during the kick off ceremony for the National Energy Consciousness Month (NECM) celebration; (2) A thanksgiving mass was held to commemorate the occasion; (3) The Energy leaders answer queries from the media; (4-7) Energy Sec. Alfonso G. Cusi, together with the Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Koji Haneda, inaugurates and test-drives one of the four plug-in hybrid electric vehicles donated by the Japanese government; (8-10) Inter-agency Fun Games (Dec 1)/Badminton Tournament (Dec 12) with USec Aguilos delivering his Welcome Message during the opening ceremony



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NECM) and NEA Christmas celebrations



(1-2) Deputy Rossan Rosero-Lee lights the first candle of the Advent Wreath that signifies the coming of the Lord (Dec 11); (3-6) The members of the NEA Board do the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree (Dec 5); (7-8) DOE Secretary and Chairperson of the NEA-BOA Alforonso G. Cusi graces the occasion of the NEA-NAGMEC Joint Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration with Rev. Fr. Rey Pardillada officiating the Mass (Dec 14); (9) Cagelco II OIC-General Manager Blandina Madamba and Ms. Regina Filoteo of IDD host the program; (10) Sec. Cusi, with Administrator Masongsong, hands over the NEA token to NAGMEC President and SIARELCO General Manager Sergio Dagoo; (11) Raffle prizes await the attending NEA employees; (12) the NEA Lights and Sounds Chorale with their rendition of Christmas songs, (13-17) Sectoral presentations by the NEA employees; and (18-21) NAGMEC Associations from North and South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao present impromptu special numbers.



Electric coops urged to utilize technology to reach, engage consumers

“ECs should come up with innovative ways to reach out to their member-consumer-owners (MCOs) and get them involved in shaping decisions that will affect the communities of their coverage area,” said Administrator Masongsong in his speech during the 38th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) of Misamis Oriental II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Moresco II). The activity with the theme “Member-Consumers’ Involvement: Key to Empowerment,” was held on October 21 at the Arturo S. Lugod Memorial Sports and Cultural Center in Gingoog City.

Administrator Masongsong emphasized and praised Moresco II for the good use of technology to improve public participation especially during regular membership activities. The said gathering, which was simultaneously held in three venues, brought together a total of 20,476 MCOs, and was covered in a synchronized broadcast aired in LED television walls to and from its main venue and two other sites in the municipalities of Balingasag and Kinoguitan, Misamis Oriental which Moresco II has been doing for three years in a row.

He said that the synchronized AGMA is a confirmation that the coop is committed to fulfilling its mandate to provide better services to the communities they serve.

“I hope in the future we can hold our simultaneous assembly in not just three but five venues, if possible, so that more people can attend. Coming to the AGMA is good for us because we get to know what is happening with our electric cooperative—its performance, achievements, and its plans,” the NEA chief said.



Meanwhile, Moresco II General Manager Ronel Cañada, said “with synchronized AGMA, the stakeholders get involved so they have the chance to help and understand how important their role is in improving delivery of the coop’s services”.

▶ page 8

Marawi Power Restoration Rapid Deployment task force launched

NEA has joined hands with various ECs and allied organizations in providing all the necessary assistance to ensure the speedy rehabilitation of the damaged distribution lines and power restoration in areas affected by the five month-long battle between the government troops and the ISIS-linked Maute terrorist group in Marawi City.

On November 13, Administrator Edgardo Masongsong led the launching ceremony of the Marawi Power Restoration Rapid Deployment (PRRD) Task Force at the Lower Capitol Complex, with Housing Assistant Secretary Felix Castro Jr., field manager of Task Force Bangon Marawi.

The Marawi PRRD Task Force is composed of the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Amreco), the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (Philreca), the National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Nagmec), the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO) and other allied organizations.

▶ page 8

Central Luzon power coops pledge Php1.3-M financial aid to conflict-stricken electricity workers

ECs in Central Luzon have pledged Php1.3-million financial assistance to the workers of the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Lasureco) affected by five-month siege of Marawi City.



Reynaldo Villanueva, president of the Central Luzon Electric Cooperatives Association (CLECA), made the pledge during a meeting with NEA Administrator Masongsong in Nueva Ecija on November 24 before the 6th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) and 13th Foundation Day of Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) - Area 2 at Palayan City Gymnasium on November 24.

“The 13-member coops of CLECA, including NEECO II - Areas 1 and 2, vowed to extend financial aid to LASURECO workers and the Marawi Power Restoration Rapid Deployment (PRRD) Task Force”, Villanueva informed the NEA chief.

For his part, Masongsong thanked NEECO II-Area 2 and the rest of the coops in Central Luzon for their assistance to Lasureco, which is currently under the management of Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power.

The NEA chief also bared his plans to consolidate all means of support being extended so far by the electrification agency and EC allied organizations to better facilitate its distribution.

“Salamat sa tulong para sa mga kapatid natin sa Marawi. Inaayos ko 'yung sistema ng pagtulong sa Marawi at 'yon na rin siguro ang magiging reference natin kung paano tumulong sa mga calamity-affected areas,” Masongsong said.

The Administrator in Action

In the efforts to strengthen the partnership with Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and encourage them to empower their respective Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs), NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong visited different ECs during the holding of their Annual General Membership Assemblies. During these activities, the Administrator highlighted issues and concerns that would promote and address the national government's call for poverty alleviation particularly in the rural areas through the efficient implementation of the Rural Electrification Program.



Local leaders' role in rural electrification drive

On October 12, Administrator Masongsong emphasized the integral role of local government leaders, especially those watching over the barangays, in ensuring the reliability of electricity service in their respective communities.

This was his statement during the 6th Punong Barangays' Power Forum with the theme, "Leading Change" hosted by the Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DASURECO) and held at the Center for Electric Cooperative Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs), Dasureco Hilltop in Barangay Cogon from October 12 to 13.

The forum brought together over 300 barangay captains from one city and 14 municipalities under its coverage area.

Also in his speech, the NEA chief apprised the local leaders of the state of rural electrification in the Philippines, laying stress on its significance to countryside development in accordance with his seven-point agenda for the agency under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

He said it is important for barangay leaders to remain actively involved in the implementation of rural electrification projects by the ECs to ensure the seamless distribution of electricity to the households.

"Sometimes a gentle wind is more than enough to set the trees in motion, tripping our power lines. Our barangay officials are there to assist our linemen in dealing with this kind of problem," Masongsong told forum participants in his native tongue.

DASURECO General Manager Godofredo Guya said that the annual forum provides barangay leaders access to more information about rural electrification, as well as the operations of the EC, thus enabling them to develop a thorough understanding of the intricate power distribution industry.

RE must continue to spur growth

"NEA will continue to push for the sustainable development of the nation's rural communities by providing electricity services to every Filipino household", said Administrator Masongsong during the 36th AGMA of the South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Socoteco II) at the City Gymnasium, Lagao, General Santos City, on October 14.

The AGMA with the theme "Strengthening Our Pillars of Commitment Towards Service, Members' Welfare and Empowerment," drew nearly 15,000 attendees.

In his message, Masongsong highlighted the importance of rural electrification to spur development and reduce poverty as envisioned in the "AmBisyon Natin 2040."

"Hindi pa kumpleto ang rural electrification program hangga't marami pa ang mga mahihirap. Mangyayari lamang ito kung ang lahat ay umangat na ang antas ng pamumuhay at maaari natin itong marating kung patuloy nating susuportahan ang ating mge electric cooperatives," the NEA chief said.

The NEA Chief also reiterated his appeal to all MCOs to support the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO) movement, as well as the proposal to establish an Electric Cooperative Consumer-Owned (ECCO) Bank that will cater to the financial interests of the electricity consumers.

A ceremonial switch-on of the Sitio Electrification and Barangay Line Enhancement Projects (SEP/BLEP) within the area coverage of Socoteco II, the swearing in of newly-elected members of

the Socoteco II Board of Directors (BOD), and symbolic mass oath-taking of the coop's MCOs as members of NCECCO movement were also done during the said occasion.

Take advantage of electricity to improve lives

Administrator Masongsong has encouraged electricity consumers, especially those living in rural and remote areas of the country, to make use of the opportunities offered by electricity to improve their lives.

The NEA Chief said this during the 37th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) of Leyte IV Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Leyeco IV) themed "Strengthening Ties for Progress and Rural Development," on November 25 in Hilongos, Leyte. The activity gathered nearly 10,000 member-consumer-owners (MCOs) of the coop.

In his message, the NEA chief highlighted the significant role that electricity plays in achieving sustainable development, particularly in rural communities. Thus, he urged the MCOs to take full advantage and optimize the availability of power services in their area to improve their lot.

"I am here to advance the cause of MCO empowerment because I believe that an EC's life expectancy is dependent on its ability to keep itself relevant to its primary and most important stakeholder — the MCOs," he said.

Steered by Board of Directors (BOD) president Emmanuel Golo and General Manager Brenda Flores-Ampolitod, Leyeco IV received an overall outstanding performance of AAA in the recent assessment of NEA.

"You are continuing the tradition of excellence in the management of your cooperative. This is why I am elated to see former or retired employees, your former general manager and Board president attending your AGMA," Masongsong said.



Masongsong inaugurates electricity consumers' hall in Cotelco

NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong led the inauguration ceremony to formally open the newly-constructed multi-purpose covered hall of the Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cotelco) dedicated to its member-consumer-owners (MCOs).

Together with Cotelco Board President Alfonso Jack Sandique, General Manager Godofredo Homez and other coop officials, Masongsong unveiled the marker of the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO) Building at COTELCO compound, Barangay Manubuan, Matalam in Cotabato, last October 15, 2017.

During the ceremony, General Manager Homez and Board President Sandique thanked Masongsong for the structure. They said the construction of the facility amounting to Php5 million was made possible through the efforts and support of Masongsong during his term as representative of the partylist group 1-CARE in the 16th Congress.

In his message before the coop officials and employees, Masongsong expressed his happiness and appreciation to Cotelco for promoting the NCECCO by naming the new facility after it. "I am happy and I am surprised that this is also dedicated to the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers," he said.

Established early this year, NCECCO serves as a movement of the electric cooperatives (ECs) and MCOs towards strategic positioning in the power industry and in pursuit of socio-political-economic-cultural-environmental development through rural electrification.



The NEA chief also said the construction of the building inspires him to pursue his other visions for the betterment of the electric cooperatives and their member-consumers, such as the establishment of a NCECCO Building in Metro Manila. "Ang lahat ng ating ginagawa ay para sa ikabubuti ng electric cooperatives at electricity consumers," he said.

Marawi Power Restoration... from page 6

In his speech, Masongsong thanked the different ECs for responding to the call to help the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Lasureco). "There are 34 ECs all over Mindanao that we are mobilizing to help Lasureco, to help Marawi, to help the Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power. We believe that our united effort to help our brethren living in this part of Mindanao - Marawi City and the whole of Lanao del Sur - will bring the development that we wanted," he said.

During the ceremony, Administrator Masongsong also announced that the

agency was extending help to Lasureco through a loan that will be used for the procurement of the construction materials needed for the restoration of distribution lines. The loan, the NEA Chief explained, will be converted into subsidy chargeable to the funds for the reconstruction of Marawi.

"We are extending loan to the tune of Php150 million so that Lasureco, the Task Force Duterte Lanao Sur Power will be able to procure [the necessary construction materials]," Masongsong said.

Meanwhile, Amreco and Nagmec have initially committed to deploy crew and equipment.

"Ang advice namin sa ibang gustong tumulong na nasa Visayas at saka sa Luzon, kasi mahirapan na tayong magpadala ng crew at hindi na siya practical, they can convert their contribution into cash," Vergara said.

Electric coops urged... from page 6

Also part of the program was the oath of office of the newly-elected members of the Moresco II Board of Directors (BOD) and the symbolic mass oath-taking of the its MCOs as members of the National Center of Electric Cooperative Consumers, Inc. (NCECCO).

Agus-Pulangi rehab, Minpocor creation get backing

During the said occasion, NEA chief Masongsong expressed optimism that the rehabilitation of the Agus-Pulangi Hydroelectric Power Plant (HEPP) as embodied in the proposed measure creating the Mindanao Power Corporation (Minpocor) will gain traction in the 17th Congress.

"Sana ang Agus at Pulangi HEPP ay maging government-owned and -controlled corporation pero nasa pangangalaga ng Minpocor," Masongsong said.

"Ang potential niya 982 megawatts (MW) pero ngayon siguro nakaka-generate lang siya between 300 to 400 MW so nawawala 'yung more or less 500 to 600 MW. So, sana pondohan na lang siya ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng Minpocor para mga taga-Mindanao ang mag-operate, mag-manage, mag-rehabilitate sa Agus at Pulangi," he said.

At this point, the fate of the Agus-Pulangi rests with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM), which has been tasked by the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) to determine the best available option for its impending privatization.

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