



NEA-backed Davao del Norte power co-op, CDA group ink deal to end 7-year-long rift

On November 14, the Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DANECO) and the group associated with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) signed a memorandum of agreement, signifying the end of a seven-year-long rift between the two factions.

NEA chief Edgardo Masongsong witnessed the formal signing of the document, which recognizes the legitimacy of DANECO, Inc. as the "sole and true entity" to run the affairs of the power distribution utility.

In his speech at the signing ceremony, Masongsong said the agreement will usher in a new beginning for DANECO and its member-consumer-owners (MCOs) under a new proposed name, Northern Davao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORDECO).

"At the end of the day, we should always consider the people in the two provinces and the interests of our member-consumer-owners. The only way to do that is for us to have one electric cooperative. Let us leave the past behind and look forward to a new chapter," Masongsong said.

Masongsong acknowledged the fact that the conflict between the two factions, which began in 2012, had taken a toll on the electrification level of DANECO that remains at 72 percent.

"There are still 28 percent unenergized, unserved households. There are still a lot of sitios that we need to (electrify). The dream of access to electricity for all, the dream of rural development will only be realized if there is electric service," he said.

Also present to witness this welcome development were Governor Edwin Jubahib and Representative Alan Dujali of Davao del Norte and Governor Jayvee Tyron Uy and Senior Board Member Arturo Uy of Compostela Valley.



NEA has new Alternate Chair of the Board

NEA hails the appointment of DOE Undersecretary Emmanuel Pacursa Juaneza as the new Alternate Chair for the NEA Board of Administrators. He was designated by the President on November 25, 2019.



Usec Juaneza was formerly connected with the Technical Education and Skills Training Authority (TESDA) as member of the Board. He was also part of the team who audited power plants such as the NAPOCOR Tongonan 1 Power Plant. He trained abroad to specialize in power management, project control, and auditing.

He is a graduate of Mechanical Engineering from the Western Institute of Technology in Iloilo City and holds a license as Professional Mechanical Engineer.

On December 9, the members of the NEA Management Committee led by Administrator Edgardo Masongsong officially welcomed the new Alternate Chair and briefed him on the Agency's mandate, current programs and significant accomplishments.

In his response message, Usec Juaneza thanked the NEA officials for the warm reception that he was accorded and looked forward to more productive endeavors in the future.###

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RE partners gather for the NEA Annual Strategic Thinking



To continually meet the complex demands of the power industry, key players in the electrification sector gather to map out the most responsive plans and programs and strategic approaches during the annual holding of the NEA Strategic Thinking.

The activity conducted from October 15 to 17, 2019 at the H.E.S. Auditorium, Quezon City was attended by some 83 participants that include the four Party-list Representatives of APEC, Ako Padayon Pilipino, RECOBODA and PHILRECA, namely Congressmen Sergio C. Dagooc, Adriano A. Ebcas, Godofredo N. Guya and Presley C. De Jesus, respectively, the leaders of the different EC Allied Organizations together with NEA Management officials and select employees.

The assembly was divided into break-away groups to discuss how NEA, with the assistance of the ECs and the EC Allied Organizations, can address the issues on Total Electrification, Existence of NEA and ECs, EC Operational Efficiency and Competitiveness, and MCO Empowerment.###

Power co-ops post lower system loss in 1st semester of 2019

ECs across the country posted lower national average system loss in the first six months of 2019, resulting in a 13-percent growth in energy sales, latest data from the NEA showed.

The NEA Information Technology and Communication Services Department (ITCSD) reported that the system losses of the ECs improved by 10 percent from 11.57 percent in the first semester of 2018 to 10.38 percent in the same period of 2019.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has set the system loss cap at 12 percent for ECs, which can be passed on to the consumers' monthly electricity bills.

Single Digit	Within the cap (10%-12%)	Exceeding the cap (12.01%-20%)	TOTAL
39	57	13	109

Data showed that 96 ECs posted a within-the-cap system loss set by ERC. Of the number, 39 ECs registered single-digit system loss. Meanwhile, 15 ECs had a double-digit system loss of 13 percent to 20 percent. This is lower than in 2018 with 31 ECs.

"This is a clear indicator that electric cooperatives are fully committed and

NEA designates new project supervisor for PALECO

NEA has designated the agency's deputy administrator for technical services to oversee the management and operations of the Palawan Electric Cooperative (PALECO).

Administrator Masongsong issued Office Order No. 2019-190 dated October 14, 2019, appointing Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki Tortola as the new project supervisor of PALECO.



"In the exigency of the service and pursuant to Sections 4(e) and 5(a) of PD 269 as amended by Republic Act No. 10531, Engr. Artis Nikki L. Tortola is hereby designated as Project Supervisor of PALECO in addition to his functions as Deputy Administrator for Technical Services, effective immediately," the order stated.

In his new role as project supervisor, DA Tortola is tasked to oversee the management and operations of PALECO, and approve or disapprove EC Board resolutions in consultation with concerned NEA departments.

He is also mandated to countersign checks, withdrawal slips, and other banking transactions, as well as perform other tasks that may be assigned by NEA for the purpose of operational efficiency.

Among the key priorities of PS Tortola were the completion of the rehabilitation efforts of the co-op's power distribution system through the help of Task Force Kapatid, and the implementation of key projects, which include the installation of two 5 MVA substations in Puerto Princesa City and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System.

PALECO has crafted a sustainability plan aimed to lessen the occurrence of power interruptions within the coverage area to be enforced upon completion of rehabilitation works.

To recall, PALECO was placed under NEA management in December 2018 following Malacañang's directive to address the power woes in the province of Palawan. ###

NEA-BOA members and NEA officials undergo Advanced Corporate Governance Training

On November 18 to 19, 2019, the NEA Board of Administrators participated in the the Advanced Corporate Governance Training held at the Sulo Hotel, Quezon City.

Board Members Agustin L. Maddatu, Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles, and Raul M. Gonzales underwent the said training as part of the continuing education of the Agency for the members of its Board of Administrators. Likewise, the NEA Management Committee members



led by Administrator Masongsong also attended the said training.

Resource persons from the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) facilitated the activity.###

NEA implements best practice in resource management

Disposal of unserviceable motor vehicles



NEA, through the Human Resources and Administration Department (HRAD), always ensures the efficient management of government resources. Part of it is the disposal of properties which already served their purpose for the Agency.

The Agency also pursues its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through assistance to other government institutions in the form of donations of disposed properties.

Thus, on November 7, 2019, two state schools were benefitted by this CSR Program of the Agency with the donation of six unserviceable motor vehicles to Marikina Polytechnic College in Marikina, Metro Manila and Lolomboy National High School in Bocaue, Bulacan which may be utilized by the students in their automotive course or training workshops.

Administrator Masongsong signed the Deed of Transfer with Dr. Joselito Gutierrez of Marikina Polytechnic College and Dr. Julian Canonoy of the Lolomboy National High School at the NEA headquarters in Quezon City.

Disposal of NEA's Valueless Records



On the other hand, NEA, in compliance with the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) General Circular No. 2 which prescribes the guidelines on the disposal of valueless records in government agencies dated January 20, 2009, facilitated the disposal of valueless documents on October 10, 2019 through the Information Technology and Communication Services Department (ITCSD).

A total of 6,934 kilos amounting to Php45,558.78 was sold to D' Lacoste Enterprise, an accredited buyer of the paper materials. The proceeds of the sale was then remitted to the Agency's General Fund.

This activity was in coordination with the Commission on Audit (COA), Finance Services Department (FSD) and Internal Audit and Quality Standards Management Office (IAQSMO).

Ms. Jhoana Marie M. Ong, NAP representative witnessed the disposal activity who shall recommend the issuance of a Certificate of Disposal. ###

NEWS BITS



NEA opens opportunities to deserving officials and employees as well as new entrants through the continuing recruitment and promotion processes by the Human Resources and Administration Department. In the fourth quarter of 2019, some 12 personnel were hired and/or promoted.



Deputy Administrator Sonia San Diego with Dirs. Leila Bonifacio and Jona Andal hand over the Plaque of Appreciation to Ms. Celia Acad of AMGDI in recognition of her dedicated service to the government under the Salamat NEAn, Mabuhay Ka! Program of the Agency.

HRM Acting Manager Anastacia Suasi and HR Officer Zoilo Soteraña witness the simple ceremony.



CCSMO facilitates the Interview of Engr. Federico Villar, Jr. with Val Gonzales of DZRH and Alvin Elchico of ABS-CBN on the efforts undertaken by NEA to address the effects of the onslaught of Typhoons Tisoy and Ursula.

National Energy Consciousness Month (NECM)



2019 NECM Kick-Off activity

On December 2, the 2019 National Energy Consciousness Month with the theme, “*Advancing Consumer Protection through Responsive and Proactive Energy Regulations*,” kicked off the celebration of the energy family’s efforts to uphold consumer welfare through increased awareness on energy matters, as well as the implementation of various programs, policies, guidelines, and rules that have been benefitting each and every Filipino.

The annual celebration of the NECM in December is provided under Proclamation No. 1427 signed on December 11, 2007 by then President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo. It coincides with the anniversary of the Department of Energy (DOE).

It aims to create public awareness through an intensified information campaign of the need for judicious conservation and efficient utilization of energy.

As part of the opening ceremonies, a press conference was also held. DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi requested the media to help in disseminating to the public the importance of energy conservation.

This year, NEA, along with other energy agencies, lined up a series of parallel activities to commemorate the event.

Renewable Energy Mini Expo

In support of the 2019 NECM, NEA held a Renewable Energy Mini Expo with the theme, “*Promoting Clean and Sustainable Energy Solutions Towards Achieving Total Electrification*” at the agency’s headquarters in Quezon City.

Administrator Masongsong led the ribbon-cutting ceremony together with Ms. Jenny Maaño of SunSmart Solar Technology who represented the different exhibitors. Ms. Maaño brought with her the Ambassadors of Renewable Energy who are also beauty title holders.

Some 12 companies participated in the event namely SunSmart, Challenge Philippines, Oceantera, Power 4 All, WeGen, Promate, GreenDot, CitiCore, One Renewable Energy Enterprise, EDMI, TradeMaster, and Kepco.

It was coordinated with the NEA Counterpart Committee headed by Engr. Ernesto O. Silvano of the Total Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Department.

Inter-Agency Fun Games

Some thirty NEA employees and service partners joined the annual Inter-agency Fun Games held at the DOE Multi-Purpose Hall in Taguig, Metro Manila.

The team participated in the different events including Badminton Tournament which NEA won 3rd Place. The Agency was awarded 2nd Place in overall standing.

Energy Quiz Bee

On December 16, several representatives from across the NEA sectors actively participated during the Energy Quiz Bee facilitated by the Committee headed by Manager Leilani L. Rico and her colleagues at the Data Management and Program Control Division. The Technical Services Sector won the First Prize followed by ECMS and OA sectors for 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively.

The activity tested the participants knowledge and understanding of the Rural Electrification Program (REP) for the past five decades.

Bloodletting Activity

Cognizant of the value of sharing blood which can provide six health benefits such as revelation of potential health problems,

(NECM) and NEA Christmas celebrations



reduction of harmful iron stores, lowering of risk from suffering heart attacks, reduction of risk from developing cancer, help in protecting the liver and the mental state of the person, some 20 NEA employees and service partners participated in a bloodletting activity held at the National Power Corporation headquarters in Quezon City. on held on December 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This initiative formed part of the Agency's health and wellness program which aimed to promote a healthy workforce.

Advent Wreath Candle ceremony

Yearly, NEA welcomes the Yuletide Season with the holding of the Advent Wreath Candle ceremony. This symbolizes the preparation of the Agency for the coming of the Lord as a sign of gratitude for His blessings and for keeping NEA strong in surmounting the challenges of the times.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: A CSR activity

As a way of giving back, NEA organized the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony held at the lobby of the agency's headquarters in Diliman, Quezon City last December 11, 2019.

The NEA board of administrators led by the newly-installed Alternate Chair Emmanuel Pacursa Juaneza did the ceremonial lighting activity with NEA officials and employees.

The Project was for the benefit of the people in Mindanao quake-affected areas and an Aeta community in San Marcelino, Zambales under the coverage area of Zambales II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMECO II).

The NEA Employees gave their pledges through star decors which gathered a total donation amounting to Php34,950.

A Christmas Serenade

To raise more funds for the Outreach Project, the Committee on Community Outreach composed of HRAD, CCSMO and the Samahang Makareporma ng NEA (Samakaren), conducted another CSR activity entitled "A Christmas Serenade".

It was facilitated through the participation of the Lights and Sound (L & S) Chorale by visiting the offices of the EC party-list lawmakers at the House of Representatives, EC allied organizations, and energy partners to serenade them.

The L & S Chorale enlivened the spirit and touched the hearts of the sponsors/benefactors

with its rendition of a repertoire of Christmas carols and contemporary songs.

NEA-EC Joint Thanksgiving and NEA Christmas celebrations

For the third time, NEA joins PHILRECA and the EC Allied Organizations in a thanksgiving celebration for the achievements in the Rural Electrification Program on December 12 at the Crossroad Center, Quezon City.

NEA and EC officials and employees gamely joined the different activities prepared by the committee such as christmas tree making contest, exchange gifts and community dancing.

During the event, the NEA Administrator with Samakaren President Virginia Cabonce turned over a check amounting to P102,670 as donation to the One EC Network Foundation, Inc. (OECNF) for the benefit of the devastated communities and survivors of the recent earthquakes in Mindanao and Typhoon "Tisoy." President Presley de Jesus and PHILRECA general manager Janeene Depay-Colingan received the said donation for the Foundation.

Meanwhile, the traditional NEA christmas party was held on December 13 for the officials and employees and NEA's service partners like EMPC, DBPSC, Vigilant Security personnel. Big prizes were given away in the raffle draws that put smile on the faces of the winners.###

Maselco power service to improve once coal plant goes online

Power distribution reliability in the province of Masbate was foreseen to improve once the 15 megawatt (MW) coal-fired plant begins its commercial operations, according to the Masbate Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MASELCO).

MASELCO Project Supervisor and Acting General Manager Romeo Acuesta disclosed that the Masbate Diesel Power Plant of the DMCI Masbate Power Corp. (DMPC) in the Municipality of Mobo was set for commissioning in December.

PS/AGM Acuesta said the construction of two units of 5 MVA power substations in Cataingan and Aroroy were also in progress.

In addition, the National Power Corp. (NPC) performed test of its 69 kV subtransmission lines, and uprating its existing 10 MVA power substation to 20 MVA to augment the existing capacity and the power quality in Masbate.

NPC is the grid owner and transmission service provider for MASELCO while DMPC is the electric cooperative's (EC) lone power supplier.

These projects, PS/AGM Acuesta said, was expected to ensure a more reliable power distribution service in the province by December.

Acuesta, however, expressed concern that the Masbate Diesel Power Plant was not enough to meet the energy demand of the province, which was at 22 MW compared to the coal plant's installed capacity of 15 MW.

To address this, the NEA, through its Regulatory Affairs Office, reviewed the EC's existing power supply with DMCI and its Power Supply Procurement Plan to determine the needed additional capacity to meet the existing and future demand.

"The 15 MW coal-fired power plant cannot accommodate the present demand of MASELCO. That is why the cooperative should review the contract to address the capacity problem," said Engr. Reynaldo Cuevas, Jr., acting department manager of the NEA Management and Consultancy Services Office (MCSO).

DMPC currently operates a bunker/diesel-fired plant in the Municipality of Mobo and satellite diesel generation sets to cater the power needs of the towns of Aroroy, Balud, Cataingan, and Cawayan in Masbate.###

NEA Day @ Pelco I

On December 29, more than 80 NEA officials and employees, led by Deputy Administrator Sonia San Diego, graced the occasion of PELCO I's celebration of NEA Day at its headquarters in Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga.

On behalf of the Administrator, Deputy Administrator San Diego delivered her congratulatory message to PELCO I for its consistent exemplary performance as shown in its attainment of Triple A KPS rating with 100% overall score in the latest results of the EC Performance Assessment. She said, *"this feat truly symbolized the dedication of the cooperative in doing its share in making a difference in the lives of the Filipino people through better quality electricity service."*

The group was welcomed by PELCO I Board. and retired General Manager Loliano Allas who served the coop for 25 years.###



NEA stands by Bicol electric cooperatives amid private firm takeover concerns



NEA stood by the ECs in Bicol amid concerns over the approval of a proposed measure granting the franchise application of a private corporation to operate a power distribution utility in Camarines Sur.

Administrator Masongsong conveyed this message on October 30 during a consultative forum organized by the Bicol Electric Cooperatives Association (BECA) in Naga City, Camarines Sur.

The forum came in the wake of mounting concerns on the passage of House Bill (HB) No. 4437, which grants legislative franchise to Bicol Light and Power Corporation to operate, manage and maintain a power distribution utility in the same coverage area of Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III).

The Administrator reiterated the power co-ops' vital role in achieving the total electrification of the country, and assured them of the agency's continued support and assistance in their efforts towards improving their operations and services to the consumers.

"Lahat ginagawa natin para maayos ang electric cooperatives sa buong Pilipinas, hindi lang dito sa [Camarines Sur] and Masbate," Masongsong told officials and members of BECA at the Queen Rose Hall of Robertson Hotel in Naga City.

To recall, the NEA placed CASURECO III under the management of the Task Force Duterte Rinconada Power in February 2017 to rehabilitate its operations. Since then, it made substantial improvement in its performance including a reduction in system loss, increased collection efficiency, and better financial status.

BECA is composed of the Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO), Camarines Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO I), CASURECO II, CASURECO III, CASURECO IV, Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CANORECO), First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO), MASELCO, Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SORECO I), SORECO II, and Ticao Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TISELCO). ###

'Build Me A Home' program for Cotabato quake survivors launched

NEA and the ECs, through the One EC Network Foundation, are stepping up efforts to help earthquake survivors rise from the rubble and rebuild their lives.



In his message, the NEA administrator lauded the 'Build-a-Home' initiative and expressed hope that this kind of program will be replicated in other communities in North Cotabato and Davao del Sur as well, which were also severely affected by the calamity.

Administrator Masongsong graced on November 15 the official launch of the "Build Me A Home: Adopt a Family, Adopt a Future" program initiated by the Succour Foundation, Inc. for the residents of Barangay Buena Vida.

The program aims to benefit the marginalized sector, especially the farmers who had lost their homes in the wake of the three strong earthquakes that hit North Cotabato in a span of two weeks last October.

Buena Vida is one of the communities left in ruins by those tremors. The small village is under the franchise area of the Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO), which consequently incurred a 30-percent drop in its electricity demand.

"We are helping the member-consumer-owners of COTELCO rebuild their homes and at the same time we are also helping the electric cooperative (recover from its losses)," Masongsong said.

The NEA chief also disclosed that the NEA was looking for funds to help cover the cost of house wiring materials for the permanent shelters that will be built through the program.

Masongsong lamented the lack of funding for the implementation of Republic Act No. 11039, also known as Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF) Act, which could have hastened this process.

Under the ECERF law, the NEA is tasked

to manage and administer the P750-million allocation to be taken from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Fund. This will be disbursed to the qualified EC beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, Alfonso Jack Sandique of Succour Foundation, who also serves as COTELCO board director representing Makilala town, said the "Build Me A Home" program will prioritize those who have no capacity to pay for labor and construction materials to rebuild their homes.

Initially, the organization relocated some 75 to 100 affected families in temporary shelters inside a privately owned rubber plantation. They were soon transferred to a permanent home that can withstand stronger tremors in a nearby location.

Housing units to be constructed under the 'Build-a-Home' program were estimated to cost around P80,000 each. Each unit was designed to have its own kitchen, bedroom and sanitation facility.

The general managers and board directors of the different ECs in Mindanao as well as their allied organizations nationwide likewise pledged to help rebuild the lives of the people of Brgy. Buena Vida through this initiative. ###

NEA-backed Davao del Norte power co-op ... from page 1

Signing the agreement for DANECO, Inc. were NEA Project Supervisor Engr. Emmanuel Galarse and Acting General Manager Mario Angelo Sotto. The signatories for DANECO-CDA, meanwhile, were General Manager Jerold Osorio and Board Director Eliseo Tan.

"This has been our intention when we assumed the office as members of the Task Force Duterte Northern Davao Power—that a day will come that there will be a reconciliation, that there will be a unification, which God gave to us today," Sotto said.

Under the MOA, the CDA group committed to "cease and desist from undertaking any acts relating to the

performance of any matters that has to do with the official functions of DANECO, Inc., in recognition of the latter's legal and juridical personality."

The document further stipulated that the group shall submit "all the records at hand including but not limited to the list of its recognized member-consumers, the payments made by the member-consumers, any contracts entered into with supplier of materials, if there is any, including the receipts of payments made to power suppliers."

It was also agreed upon that DANECO, Inc. "may extend financial assistance" to the employees and officers of the DANECO-CDA who will be affected by the dissolution of its legal personality.

Displaced workers were also assisted and referred by both parties to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other government agencies for appropriate assistance.

To facilitate a "smooth, organized and effective working relationship" between the two parties, a transition team was formed composed of 10 members, five coming from each party.

DANECO covers the provinces of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley including Tagum City and the Island Garden City of Samal (IGACOS). ###

NEA seeks P1-B assistance for 'Tisoy'-hit power co-ops

NEA sought financial assistance to be used to aid the ECs affected by typhoon Tisoy to rehabilitate their damaged distribution facilities that almost reached P1 billion.

In a letter addressed to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Administrator Masongsong appealed to release funds for the rehabilitation and restoration of electricity service by the 27 ECs whose power distribution facilities were severely damaged by Typhoon "Tisoy."

The NEA Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) reported that the initial cost of damage to the ECs' infrastructure ballooned to an estimated P899.632 million.

The Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SORECO I) incurred the most damage at P137.500 million, followed by Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO) at P134.487 million, and Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO) at P123.421 million.

Damage to Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) was pegged at P88.058 million, Masbate Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MASELCO) at P56.600 million, and Sorsogon II Electric Cooperative (SORECO II) at P55.441 million.

"To address the urgency of the need to rehabilitate and restore electric service in the coverage areas of these ECs, the NEA and its partner ECs



are requesting/appealing for the much needed financial assistance in the form of subsidy/grant from the national government in the amount of P1 billion," Masongsong said.

The NEA chief explained that the ECs' internally generated fund cannot cover such funding requirement since their rate structure as approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) does not include any provision for capital expenditure requirement attributable to the damage caused by calamities. Administrator Masongsong disclosed that the state-run agency cannot implement Republic Act No. 11039, also known as Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF) Act, as the initial P750-million funding for its implementation is yet to be provided.

To speed up the power restoration activities, the NEA in coordination with the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PHILRECA), mobilized and deployed Task Force Kapatid "Tisoy" to calamity-stricken Luzon and Visayas provinces.

Typhoon "Tisoy" (international name 'Kammuri') made landfall in Gubat, Sorsogon on December 2 and left the Philippine area of responsibility on December 5, according to state weather bureau PAGASA. ###



Power co-ops post ...from page 2

ready to compete with other power distribution utilities in the country. Lower system losses contribute to a reduction in power rates," the NEA Administrator said.

"I hope they will strive to sustain the gains they have made, and do their utmost to further improve their services to their member-consumer-owners and other stakeholders," he added.

In its report, NEA-ITCSD also said 14 regions registered reduction in their system losses and contributed to the decline in the overall level. This resulted to increased energy sales by 13 percent and revenues by 14 percent.

Total energy sales of the ECs also improved, reaching 11,397 gigawatthours (GWh) in the first semester, up from 10,060 GWh in the same period last year. National gross revenue of the ECs grew from P98.741 billion in 2018 to P112.121 billion in 2019.

The higher sales were also driven by the increased consumption of residential sector at 5,951 GWh followed by commercial sector at 2,515 GWh, industrial sector at 1,634 GWh, public building at 588 GWh, and other consumers at 709 GWh. ###

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