



PHP1.8 BILLION ALLOCATED FOR ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET - NEA

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) said PhP1.827B has been allocated to support the continued implementation of the rural electrification projects in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022.

The bulk of the said amount, or PhP1.627B, is appropriated for the implementation of the Sitio Electrification Program. At least PhP200M is earmarked for the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF).

On September 23, NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services, Engr. Artis Nikki Tortola, attended the plenary deliberations on the agency's proposed budget at the House of Representatives.

Based on the 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP), the NEA is allocated PhP3.896B corporate operating budget. Of the amount, PhP2.069B will be financed by the NEA's internally generated funds, and PhP1.827B represents subsidy from the national government.

By expense class, PhP2.212B (57 percent) is for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE); PhP1.289B (33 percent) for capital outlay; PhP394.97 M (10 percent) for personnel services.

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NEA CELEBRATES 52ND FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, 12TH NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION AWARENESS MONTH



In August this year, the National Electrification Administration celebrated its 52nd founding anniversary. This occasion coincided with the observance of the 12th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM).

Under Proclamation No. 1743, August of every year is declared as National Electrification Awareness Month. NEAM seeks to create public awareness through intensified information campaign showcasing electrification programs and projects.

This year's celebration carries the theme *"NEA-ECs: Arise as One, Championing National Development and Building Sustainable Communities through Rural Electrification."*

NEA, in cooperation with the Electric Cooperatives, has lined up a series of activities for the month-long commemoration of the said event.

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PHP 455-MILLION IN LOANS RELEASED TO ECS AS OF END-AUGUST

The NEA has released PhP455.293-million worth of loans, including calamity loans, to 19 electric cooperatives (ECs) under the Enhanced Lending Program from January to August of 2021.



Data from the NEA Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD) as of August 31, 2021 showed that the bulk or PhP380.293 million of these loans went to 16 ECs to help finance their various capital expenditure (CapEx) projects and working capital requirements.

At least PhP75 million in calamity loans went to six ECs

NEA LAUDED ANEW FOR RESOLVING 100% OF CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS

NEA has been commended anew by the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center (CCC) for resolving 100 percent of citizens' concerns within the prescribed period.

In its letter to NEA Management, the 8888 CCC said that a total of 209 citizens' concerns were referred to the agency from January to May 2021. Of the number, all 209 tickets or 100 percent were acted upon.

The NEA also earned a 100-percent compliance rate, meaning all citizens' concerns and complaints referred to the agency by 8888 CCC were resolved within 72 hours.

"We would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all tickets are acted upon within the prescribed period," 8888 CCC Director Bernadette Casinabe said in the letter.

In a statement, NEA Management thanked 8888 CCC for the recognition, saying *"This reflects our commitment to ensuring that all concerns and complaints regarding the electric cooperatives and our services are acted upon promptly."*

Of the total tickets referred to the agency, 132 tickets or 63.16 percent were about consumer concerns, 72 tickets or 34.45 percent pertained to integrity-related concerns, 3 tickets or 1.44 percent were commendation, and 2 tickets or 0.96 percent were about employment concerns.

for the repair and rehabilitation of their damaged power distribution facilities due to the onslaught of previous typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses.

These six ECs were Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO III), Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASURECO IV), First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO), Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO), Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO), and Quezon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I).

The NEA's Enhanced Lending Program includes regular, calamity and concessional loans, stand-by and short-term credit loans, single-digit system loss, renewable energy and modular generator sets loan.

The calamity loan has a maximum 10-year repayment term, with a grace period of one year and an interest rate of 3.25 percent per annum. ###

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

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

PHP1.8B allocated for electrification... from page 1

The proposed budget will allow the agency to meet its corporate targets for 2022, which include the electrification of 1,085 sitios, connection of additional 400,000 consumers, reduction of system loss to 12 percent, collection efficiency of 98.23 percent, loans outlay of P1.2 billion, and realization of a net margin.

Data as of June 30, 2021 showed the NEA, in partnership with 121 electric cooperatives (ECs), has energized 78 provinces, 90 cities, 1,387 municipalities, 36,080 barangays, 125,969 sitios, and 14.54 million consumers nationwide. ###

NEA gives back

As part of its corporate social responsibility program, NEA, through its Human Resources and Administration Department and in cooperation with the Samahan ng mga Kawaning Makareporma ng NEA (SAMA-KAREN), has conducted the yearly Outreach Project.

On September 8, 2021, a total of 100 beneficiaries from the agency's service partners were extended help and given bucket of food and health packages. This consisted of 51 DBP Manpower Services, 24 D' Triump Cleaners, 15 guards from Alexis Security Agency and five NEA EMPC and Samakaren personnel.

On September 16, 2021, Five representatives from the Quezon City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit were also given as tokens for their assistance during the two Mass Diagnostic Testing for Covid-19 for NEA officials and employees and other building occupants and for the continuous assistance in keeping NEA a Covid-free work place.

Another batch of 100 beneficiaries from the indigent senior citizens of Barangay Piñahan will also be extended assistance.

NEA cites EC ... from page 7

The bill mandates the NEA, in coordination with other stakeholders in the power industry, to celebrate the day with the conduct of an annual national convention and activities, such as trainings, seminars, and learning sessions.

House Bill No. 9524, on the other hand, mandates the employers to provide for life and accident or disability insurance and benefits to all line workers.

NEA said the passage of House Bills 9489 and 9524 by the House of Representatives is a welcome development, and expressed hope the Senate will sponsor the same measures.

It has thanked the Congress and the Power Bloc representatives for the timely approval of the Linemen Appreciation Day Act and the Line Worker Insurance and Benefits Act. ###

PHOTO GALLERY



NEA 52nd Anniversary and 12th National El

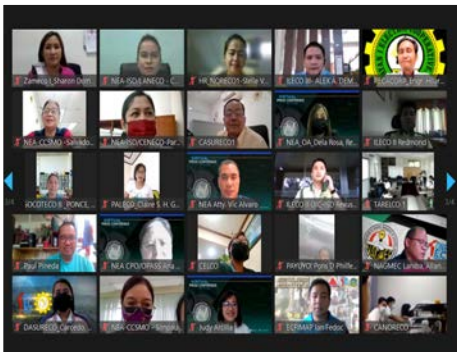


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This year's celebration, however, was once again different due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions enforced by the national government.

Virtual Press Conference

The occasion kicked off with the conduct of the Virtual Press Conference held on July 27, 2021. The activity was attended by some 100 electric cooperatives.

The topics discussed with the members of the media included Status of Energization, Deferral of EC Overall Performance Assessment, Renewable Energy Projects, Collection Efficiency, Loan Disbursements, EC Consumer Empowerment, Status of BARMM ECs, and EC Power Supply Procurement Plan (PSPP), and the Conduct of the Competitive Selection Process for Power Supply Agreements (CSP-PSA).

Thanksgiving Mass

On July 28, a virtual Thanksgiving Mass was held to give gratitude for the milestone accomplishments of the Agency, in partnership with the ECs, for past five decades.

NEA and EC employees attended the online gathering which was presided by Msgr. Albert C. Songco from the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

Linemen Appreciation Day

Meanwhile, as a tribute to the hardwork and dedication of the RE sector's Warriors of Light, a special day dubbed as Linemen Appreciation Day was held on August 2. This initiative aims to recognize all line workers across the country who put their lives at risk and work around the clock to keep the electricity flowing to communities and businesses.

On said date, NEA joined the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives (PHILRECA) in celebrating this momentous occasion for the EC Lineworkers.

In related news, the House Committee on Energy approved the committee report on the draft substitute bill for House Bill (HB) 471, also known as A Bill Establishing the Lineman Training Academy of the Philippines; HB 472 or the proposed National Lineman Appreciation Day Act; and HB 3247 or the Lineworker Appreciation and Benefits Act, subject to amendments.

NEA-EC Consultative Conference

Just like the previous year, the traditional NEA-EC Consultative Conference with the 121 ECs was conducted virtually on August 5. During the activity, NEA presented the agency's significant strides over the past years in implementation of the rural electrification projects.

Electrification Awareness Month celebrations



Data as of December 2020 showed that since 1969, the NEA and the ECs have energized 78 provinces, 90 cities, 1,387 municipalities, 36,080 barangays, 125,123 sitios and 14.25 million consumer connections.

From 2017 to June 2021 alone, a total of 5,431 sitios were energized through the Sitio Electrification Program, and another 120 areas under the Barangay Line Enhancement Program.

From 2017 to May 2021, a total of 2.465 million additional consumers were connected within the coverage areas of the 121 ECs.

NEA also launched renewable energy (RE) programs for the electrification of households located in off-grid areas.

In addition, the Agency reported the operational and financial milestones in the last five years such as the agency's sustained

profitability, payment of PhP329.5M in corporate taxes, and remittance of PhP411.712M in dividends to the national government (NG) from 2016 to 2020.

It also paid PhP3.175B to the NG for the advances made on the agency's foreign loan obligations. The remaining balance of PhP428M is set to be paid within 2021.

A total of PhP5.628B worth of loans to ECs was likewise released through the Agency's Lending and Guarantee Program from 2017 to June 2021. And high collection efficiency of about 100 percent was sustained.

Other accomplishments were the mobilization of Task Force Kapatid in the aftermath of calamities, the establishment of the EC Member-Consumer-Owners Program for Empowerment (MCOPE), the ongoing relocation of electrical poles affected by the road widening projects, the implementation of NEA Business Intelligence Technology, and COVID-19

initiatives, such as the 'Pantawid Liwanag' program, among others.

DOE Secretary and NEA Board Chairperson Alfonso Cusi, in his message, recognized the contribution of the NEA and the 121 ECS to economic development in the countryside. He also commended the NEA and the ECs for their hard work, which he said, is reflected in their consistent accomplishments.

"The creation of NEA revolutionized countryside economic development. Before, only our urban areas were advantageously positioned for progress. Through the NEA, the national government gained access to remote rural areas, and we were able to tip the scales in their favor by providing them access to electric power services which boosted their local economies, especially agricultural and industrial sectors," Cusi said.

BARRM ECS UNDER THE CARE OF BANGSAMORO GOVERNMENT

NEA has begun the process to transfer the authority to supervise electric cooperatives (ECs) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to the Bangsamoro Government.

Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), was approved on July 27, 2018. With the passage of the BOL, the supervision of the Electric Cooperatives under its jurisdiction shall now pertain to the Bangsamoro Government.

Deputy Administrator for Electric Cooperative Management Services (ECMS) Atty. Vicar Loureen Lofranco was assigned to supervise the Special Concerns Office (SCO) tasked to focus on the transition process.

“With the SCO, we hope to help facilitate the smooth operation and transition of the BARMM ECs pursuant to Article VI, XIII and other relevant provisions of the Bangsamoro Organic Law,” Lofranco said.

The NEA from a national line agency under RA 6038 was created as a government-owned and controlled corporation under Presidential Decree No. 269. The BOL expressly allows the Bangsamoro Government to create its own departments, agencies, government instrumentality, and GOCCs similar to what the National Government currently has.

Under Section 30, Article XII of the BOL, the Bangsamoro Government may opt for the creation of its counterpart of the electrification administration similar to NEA.

Among the other tasks of the SCO is to render technical assistance to the Bangsamoro government in setting up the Electrification Agency similar to the NEA structure to ensure that the transition is effected to the best interest of the BARMM ECs and their member-consumer-owners (MCOs).

Meanwhile, the NEA SCO shall collaborate with the

Bangsamoro Government and/or its Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) and other agencies/instrumentalities for electrification and development programs and operational concerns in relation to the management and supervision of the ECs under the BARMM.

“Relative to this, Deputy Administrator Lofranco is temporarily relieved of her duties as the Deputy Administrator of the EC Management Services during the transitory period,” the NEA administrator said in an Office Order dated June 23, 2021.

A technical team to assist Deputy Administrator Lofranco was created. Meanwhile, Director Nollie Alamillo, the current NEA Institutional Development Department Manager was designated as the officer-in-charge of the Office of the Deputy Administrator for ECMS.

Deputy Administrator Lofranco, together with Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative (LASURECO) General Manager Nordjiana Lucman Dipatuan-Ducol, paid a courtesy visit to BARMM Senior Minister and MENRE Minister Abdulraof Macacua last May 21.

During the visit, Lofranco said they discussed, among others, the concerns of LASURECO and other ECs operating in Bangsamoro areas. Lofranco also serves as the project supervisor of LASURECO.

There are seven ECs in BARMM, namely LASURECO, Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BASELCO), Cagayan de Sulu Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CASELCO), Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO), Siasi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SIASELCO), Sulu Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SULECO), and Tawi-Tawi Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TAWELCO). ###



ECS TO SUBMIT RISK ASSESSMENT, RESILIENCY COMPLIANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

NEA has reminded the electric cooperatives to comply with the submission requirements stated in the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF) Law.



In a memorandum, the 121 ECs were given until August 31 to submit to the agency their respective Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, Resiliency Compliance Plans (VRA-RCP), and Emergency Response Plans (ERP).

Republic Act No. 11039, approved in 2018, creates the ECERF to be managed and administered by the NEA. The ECERF provides financial assistance to ECs for disaster mitigation, preparedness, and rehabilitation of ECs' damaged infrastructures after a fortuitous event or force majeure.

NEA cites EC Lineworkers invaluable contribution to rural communities

NEA paid tribute to the line workers of the electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide, citing their invaluable contribution to social and economic development in rural communities.

NEA joined the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) and the 121 ECs in observing the National Linemen Appreciation Day, which was held virtually on Monday, August 2.

The activity was part of the month-long celebration of the 12th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM) and the 52nd Founding Anniversary of the NEA this August.

NEA recognized the dedication and hard work of EC line workers, who often endure challenging conditions and long hours to keep the lights on in the rural communities, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement, the state-run agency said, *"We also recognize your valiant efforts which allow the continuous operation of essential power services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. You are the 'unsung' heroes who contributed necessary actions for the community to move forward,"* the NEA chief said.

It has also paid tribute to fallen line workers, who died while performing their duties.



The law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) also require ECs to submit to the NEA their comprehensive and integrated disaster management programs, such as Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, Resiliency Compliance Plans, and Emergency Response Plans on or before May of every year.

Memorandum No. 2021-31 stated that the the law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations provide that failure to submit said assessment and plans shall bar the ECs from accessing the ECERF. ###



Meanwhile, the NEA also welcomed the approval on third and final reading at the House of Representatives of House Bill No. 9489, or the Linemen Appreciation Day Act, and House Bill No. 9524, or the Line Worker Insurance and Benefits Act.

House Bill No. 9489 seeks to declare the first Monday of August every year as National Linemen Appreciation Day in recognition of their invaluable contribution to "nation-building" and "sustainable rural development through total electrification of the countryside."

ELECTRIC COOPS IN LUZON TOLD TO PREPARE AMID TAAL VOLCANO UNREST



The National Electrification Administration (NEA) directed the electric cooperatives (ECs) in Luzon, especially those in Region IV-A, to make the necessary preparations following the phreatomagmatic eruption of Taal Volcano.

The State-run agency, through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) issued an advisory on Thursday, July 1, calling on all Luzon ECs to take the appropriate contingency measures to mitigate the possible impact on their power distribution systems.

Preparations include the activation of their Emergency Response Organization (ERO) when the need arises to implement without delay their appropriate emergency response plans.

The ECs were also advised by the NEA DRRMD to continuously monitor the Taal Volcano bulletin issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

On July 1, PHIVOLCS raised the alert status of Taal Volcano from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 3, which means that there is magmatic intrusion at the Main Crater that may further drive succeeding eruptions. ###

52nd Anniversary... from page 5

Other officials present at the Consultative Conference were Power Bloc Representatives Presley De Jesus (PHILRECA), Sergio Dagooc (APEC), Godofredo Guya (RECOBODA) and Adriano Ebcas (Ako Padayon Pilipino), and leaders of different EC Allied Organizations led by PHILRECA general manager and executive director Janeene Depay-Colingan.

Discussions revolved around the process on renewal of franchise of power distribution utilities, including ECs; the financial modeling for competitive selection process of power supply procurement of ECs; improving reliability and reducing costs of power supply and delivery systems in isolated grids; the Green Energy Option program; and the revised policy on EC Overall Performance Assessment. as presented by invited resource persons namely Atty. Maria Angelica R. Alonso-Obias, Professor Rowaldo del Mundo, DOE Director Mylene Capongcol and NEA Corplan Director Ana Rosa Papa, respectively.

Simultaneous Nationwide Line Clearing and Tree Planting

To get the rural electrification sector involved in the month-long NEAM celebration, the agency has enjoined the 121 ECs to conduct simultaneously tree-planting and line clearing activities in their respective franchise areas on August 11.

This is an annual activity geared towards fulfilling the shared cause for the protection of the environment that provide possible sources of energy as well as to ensure efficient distribution systems

All electric cooperatives were once again urged to display their unity and solidarity by taking part in the undertakings in celebration of the National Electrification Awareness Month. ###

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