



## PRRD APPROVES RELEASE OF PHP120-MILLION FUNDS FOR NEA'S ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) welcomed the approval of President Rodrigo Duterte to release funds for the implementation of the agency's rural electrification projects in the countryside.



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The approved funds, which amount to PhP120 million, were contained in Republic Act (RA) No. 11518 or the 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA), intended for the installation of solar panels on 44 public schools in four provinces.

The PhP120-million electrification funds are broken down as follows: Php20 million for 11 public schools in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Cebu and Nueva Ecija; and Php100 million for 33 public schools in Lipa City, Batangas.

This solar project aims to generate savings by sourcing a portion of the schools' electricity demand from solar rooftops and to mitigate climate change through the utilization of indigenous renewable energy sources.

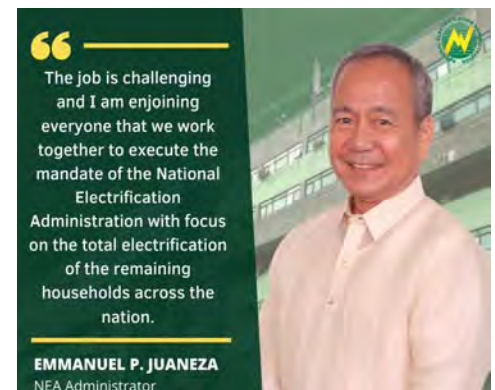
Under 2021 GAA, the NEA was also allotted PhP1.628 billion for the continued implementation of the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP); and P750 million for the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF). ###

## NEA HAILS NEW ADMINISTRATOR

On 18 October 2021, NEA hailed former Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Emmanuel P. Juaneza as the new administrator of the agency.

The NEA Board of Administrators (BOA), through a Special Board Meeting presided by the Chairman and DOE Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi officially elected Board Member Emmanuel P. Juaneza as the NEA Administrator.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, on 13 October 2021, signed the appointment paper of Engr. Juaneza as member of the NEA BOA and his nomination as the NEA Administrator.



Administrator Juaneza, in his message during the agency's flag raising ceremony via Zoom, enjoined the NEA employees to work together and execute the agency's mandate.

*"The job is challenging and I am enjoying everyone that we work together to execute the mandate of the National Electrification Administration with focus on the total electrification of the remaining households across the nation,"* Juaneza said. ▶page 6

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## 2022 NEA CORPORATE OPERATING BUDGET APPROVED

NEA lauds the approval of the funding for the implementation of the government's rural electrification program for 2022.

Under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2022, the NEA was allocated a total of Php4.170 billion. This is broken down as follows: Php2.100 billion for the National Rural Electrification Program; Php1.200 billion for loans to Electric Cooperatives; Php780.051million for General Administration and Support; and Php89.416 million for Support to Operations. This amount is Php435 million lower than the Php4.605 billion approved under the 2021 GAA.

On the other hand, NEA is upbeat on the approval of Php1.200 billion in loan fund for 2022. This is Php700 million higher than the Php500 million approved in 2021. The increase will enable the agency to assist the electric cooperatives in the implementation of projects through the different loan services being offered the Agency.

*"The approval of the proposed Php1.200 billion for loans will be very helpful in addressing the funding requirements of the electric cooperatives (ECs) in their electrification projects,"* Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza said.

Meanwhile, the Php2.100 billion for the National Rural Electrification Program includes Php1.628 billion for Sitio Electrification Program (SEP), Php224 million for Electric Cooperative Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF), Php70 million for solar electrification of schools and other government buildings, and Php179 million for line enhancement and improvement of distribution lines in areas covered by SULECO, CASURECO IV and ALECO.

In the implementation of SEP, a special provision in the GAA states that the NEA shall "prioritize sitios where absolute



number of indigents and the incidence of poverty are high as identified in the latest official poverty statistics of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as well as those with the high probability of being energized."

The NEA shall also release funds only to ECs which have fully liquidated funds from previous years' electrification projects. In cases where the ECs are not qualified to implement projects for barangay and sitio electrification, the NEA "may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the latter through its district engineering offices will implement the project." ###

## GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO FALLEN LINEMEN



NEA has provided assistance to the family of the fallen linemen who participated in the Task Force Kapatid operations in the heavily-hit areas by Typhoon Odette,

Two linemen namely Al Abarico of Surigao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SURNECO), and Ronald Gallarde of Negros

Oriental II Electric Cooperative (NORECO II) died of accidental electrocution while working on electricity restoration of their respective Odette-affected areas .

The NEA has coordinated with the Office of the President and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to ensure that aid is provided to the bereaved family.

While on his inspection in the typhoon-affected areas in Negros Oriental, NEA Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza visited the wake of Ronald Gallarde to personally condole with his family.

In addition to government aid and the NEA Administrator's visit, NEA employees volunteered to provide financial assistance to the families of those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

In honor of these men and in the spirit of solidarity, the NEA employees initiated a collection to be given to the families of Abarico and Gallarde. They have raised a total of Php50,000.

These unsung heroes will both be remembered for their exceptional efforts to alleviate the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette.###



# NEA URGES ECS TO SUPPORT 'BAYANIHAN BAKUNAHAN' PROGRAM

NEA urged all electric cooperatives across the country to support the mass COVID-19 vaccination program, dubbed as "Bayanihan Bakunahan."

Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza urged the 121 ECs to support the said program, which is spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

*"In support of the Bayanihan Bakunahan Program, all electric cooperatives are enjoined to participate in its implementation by encouraging all their unvaccinated member-consumer-owners in the franchise area to be inoculated,"* the Administrator said in a memorandum dated November 25, 2021.

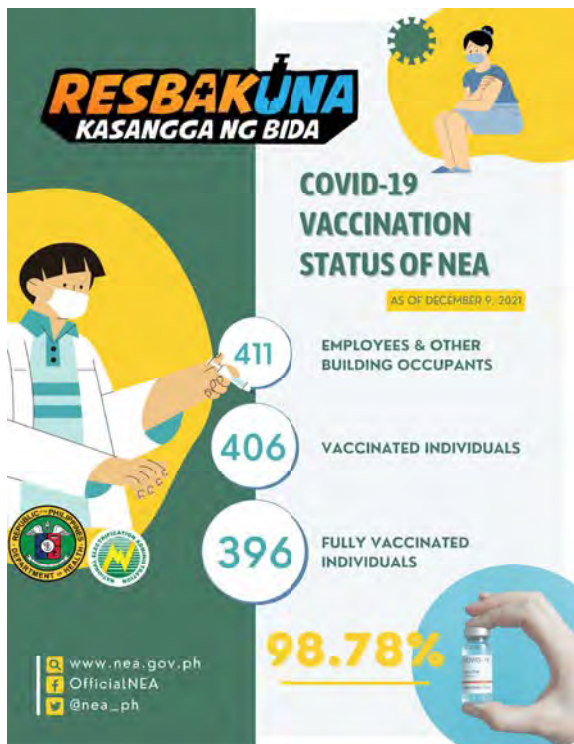
*"Accordingly, the ECs shall utilize their existing information education campaign program and allow the use of its facilities if needed by the DOH or DILG, as a site for the vaccination in order to contribute to the success of the said undertaking,"* the NEA chief added.



The state-run agency issued the statement in response to President Rodrigo Duterte's instruction to all government agencies and instrumentalities to extend all possible support to the 'Bayanihan Bakunahan' program. ▶ *page 8*

## 406 EMPLOYEES, OTHER BUILDING OCCUPANTS FULLY VACCINATED VS COVID-19

More than 400 employees and other building occupants of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) have been fully vaccinated against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).



Data as of December 9, 2021, showed that a total of 406 or 98.78 percent out of the 411 personnel and other occupants of the NEA building in Quezon City were already inoculated.

Of the number, 396 individuals were fully vaccinated, while 10 individuals were due for second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Some 5 individuals have yet to be vaccinated due to various health concerns, NEA data showed.

Last year, the NEA remitted P1.26 billion of unutilized subsidies and P85.71 million in dividends to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) to help fund the national government's COVID-19 response. ###



# TYPHOON ODETTE: TASK FORCE KAPATID OPERATIONS

NEA BOOSTS TASK FORCE KAPATID INITIATIVES OF ECS TO RESTORE ELECTRICITY IN ODETTE AFFECTED AREAS



photo credits: Leyeco II & IV FB pages, Andres Ratio

Last December 14 2021, Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) entered the Philippines, affecting 43 provinces. In coordination with the National Electrification Administration (NEA), 74 affected ECs underwent recovery measures.

Within the 11 affected regions, 35 Electric Cooperatives (ECs) were able to continue normal operations. The strong winds running with a velocity of up to 220 km per hour, however, managed to interrupt power distribution among 27 ECs. Initial assessment of damages amounted to Php8,198,745.82.

On 19 December 2021, Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza and Deputy Administrator Artis Nikki L. Tortola visited the areas affected by Super Typhoon Odette and have overseen the active restoration measures of ECs starting with Region 8. A coordination meeting with the FRECOR-8 member-ECs was also conducted .

During the 20 December 2021 press conference, Administrator Juaneza, together with the DOE, ECs, NGCP, IEMOP, NAGMEC

and EDC, the Task Force Kapatid (TFK) was reportedly in immediate activation, enabling ECs with normal operations to assist the other ECs affected by Odette. Launched in 2002 by then NEA Administrator, Fr. Francisco G. Silva, TFK has been a time-tested cooperation initiative wherein ECs are mobilized to assist each other during the onslaught of natural and man-made calamities like typhoons and earthquakes.

In line with their initiatives, the Administrator said in his message, *“It is very important to promote the cooperation, transparency and urgency among all involved in the power restoration. The Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs) rely on the Task Force Kapatid for the immediate restoration of power in their areas”*

He also highlighted the proper use of EC funds during emergency, especially because these come from their Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs) including the marginalized sector. ###



# TYPHOON ODETTE: TASK FORCE KAPATID OPERATIONS



From 21 December 2021 to 23 December 2021, Administrator Juaneza continued highlighting this in succeeding site visits to help facilitate the ECs carrying out the restoration of electricity. He visited Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative (SOLECO) and Leyte II, III, IV and V Electric Cooperatives.

Together with 7 other EC Task Forces, the NEA contingent mobilized the TFK in assisting SOLECO, where all 19 of its municipalities were out of power service. Similarly, the TFK composed of personnel from LEYECO II, LEYECO III, and BILECO helped in the areas affected by typhoon in the 6 municipalities under LEYECO IV .

The General Managers (GMs) of FRECOR-8 ECs expressed their gratitude for NEA’s aid in calamity measures during the preparation, the onslaught, and the aftermath.

Along the way, there were challenges that were encountered in the TFK operations. The delays in TFK deployment were caused by transportation problems ranging from the cases

of toppled trees to difficulty in deployment of sea vessels. BOHECO I and II, as well as DIELCO had been difficult to reach due to land and water routes damaged by the Super Typhoon.

On 26 December 2021, 15 NEA engineers were deployed along with 5 support staff members to assess damages in the affected areas and acquire commitment from the ECs timelines for power restoration.

NEA DRRMD reported that the total cost of damage amounted to Php1,854,957,568.59. By 27 December 2021, out of the 937 municipalities, 683 has been energized, while power in 87 municipalities were partially restored.

In anticipation of subsequent Typhoons, NEA shall continue overseeing preventive and restoration measures among ECs, particularly in line with the policies on Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Emergency Restoration Planning, and Electric Cooperatives’ Resiliency Program. ###



# NEWS AROUND THE ECS

## NEW PROJECT SUPERVISOR DESIGNATED FOR PANELCO I

NEA has designated Atty. Omar M. Mayo as project supervisor (PS) of the Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative (PANELCO I) to oversee its management and operations.



Pursuant to NEA Board Resolution No. 2021-98, passed and approved by the NEA Board of Administrators during its Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2021 NEA Officer-in-Charge, Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee issued Office Order on October 8, 2021 assigning Atty. Mayo of the NEA Legal Services Office as PANELCO I's PS in a concurrent capacity as PS of Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO), effective immediately.

As indicated in the NEA Office Order, the new PS is tasked to supervise the management and operations of PANELCO I, and approve or disapprove EC Board Resolutions in consultation with concerned NEA departments, among others.

He is also mandated to perform other tasks/duties that may be assigned by the NEA for the purpose of operational efficiency. ###

### NEA HAILS ... from page 1

*"We are given a certainly daunting schedule, telling us to accomplish 100-percent total electrification by end of President Duterte's office," he added.*

Prior to his appointment as the NEA Administrator, Juaneza, a professional mechanical engineer, served as the DOE Undersecretary supervising the Electric Power Industry Management Bureau and the Renewable Energy Management Bureau. He was also designated as Secretary's Alternate Chairman to the NEA BOA and Alternate Representative to the Boards of National Power Corporation (NPC), National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) and the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB). Before his stint at the DOE, he was a Board Member of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority from September 2016 to September 2019.###

## ECs CELEBRATE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH



photo credits:  
Cagelco 1, Leyeco IV, Aselco and Siarelco FB pages

In celebration of the National Cooperative Month with the theme, *"Kooperatibang Matatag: Tumutugon sa mga Hamon, Daan sa Pagbangon, Nagbibigay Pag-asa sa Makabagong Panahon*, the 121 electric cooperatives nationwide organized the MCO Community Pantry in their respective coverage areas.

This is the ECs' way of giving back and sharing the blessings to their MCOs in this difficult times.###

# NEWS AROUND THE ECS

## NEA CITES LEGAL BASIS FOR BENECO LEADERSHIP INTERVENTION

NEA has explained the legal basis for interceding in the leadership and management of the Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO).

In a report submitted to the Senate Committee on Energy, the NEA said the process of selection and hiring of an Electric Cooperative (EC) General Manager is governed by the agency's Memorandum No. 2017-035, issued in October 2017.

The memorandum provides, among others, that all applicants vying for a General Manager position must be given fair and just chance in the selection process, and that an incumbent Officer-in-Charge-General Manager (OIC-GM) should relinquish his/her designation.

NEA said there were two candidates for the BENECO General Manager position: Engr. Melchor Licoben, who was then the Assistant General Manager and the incumbent OIC-GM at the time of his application; and Atty. Ana Maria Paz Rafael.

On April 29, 2021, the NEA Board of Administrators (NEA BOA) passed Regular Board (RB) Resolution No. 2021-47, which endorsed the candidate with the highest score in the final interview for the General Manager position of BENECO.

The BENECO Board of Directors, however, passed a resolution on May 19, 2021, rejecting the NEA BOA's resolution and reiterating the previous BENECO Board Resolution which appointed Engr. Licoben as their GM.

The NEA BOA found the action of BENECO without valid reason, thus it appointed Atty. Rafael as the new BENECO General Manager based on the NEA memorandum regarding the process of selection and hiring of an EC General Manager, through RB Resolution No. 2021-71.

On September 21, 2021, the NEA BOA placed the seven members of the BENECO Board and Engr. Licoben under 90-day preventive suspension, pending investigation of the administrative case filed against them. The NEA BOA also appointed Atty. Omar Mayo of the Legal Services Office as project supervisor of BENECO.

"Contrary to the arguments of the suspended BENECO officials that the case filed against them is premature because of the pendency of the petition for certiorari filed

by Licoben before the Court of Appeals on September 1, 2021, the same is without any factual and legal bases. Although such judicial recourse to question the validity of our RB Resolution No. 2021-71 is correct and in accordance with PD 269 as amended. However, up to this time, NEA has not received any Resolution from the Court of Appeals relative to said petition, restraining this Office from further acting on the issues brought to us, thus the implementation of their suspension is imperative," the NEA said.

The NEA also noted that it is within its powers to impose disciplinary and preventive measures upon erring members of the EC Board of Directors, its officers and employees. It also cited the supervisory powers of the NEA over ECs under Section 4-A of Presidential Decree No. 269, as amended by Republic Act No. 10531.

"In the meantime, NEA continues to investigate the officials of BENECO on their administrative liabilities based on the adverse audit observations/findings on the Financial and Management Audit of the EC covering the period June 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017 conducted by our NEA EC Audit Department (ECAD) which were considered gravely adverse to good management," the NEA said.

The NEA ECAD also conducted a subsequent audit on BENECO covering the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020 which were also considered gravely adverse to good management. The audit findings showed that the BENECO Board and Management have been continuously defying the NEA Memorandum and Guidelines in the grant of benefits and allowances.

Among the audit observations and recommendations that were disregarded on the previous NEA Audit Reports and the audit findings against BENECO officials were the investment of PhP160 million with the Rural Electrification and Financing Corporation; amendment of the terms of payment with MN Electro Industrial Supply and Services, Inc. for the supply of materials, labor, and handling for the electrification project of 79 sitios amounting to PhP87.2 million; and the procurement of steel poles from Industrial Galvanizers Corp. of the Philippines totaling PhP7.6 million. ###



# NEA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP) SUBMISSION



To allow the electric cooperatives (ECs) to systematically prepare the Renewable Energy Development Plan (REDP), the NEA has extended the deadline for the submission of the said Plan.

In a memorandum issued on October 15, 2021, the NEA announced that the 121 ECs will have until November 5, 2021 to prepare and submit their respective REDP electronically. The original deadline for submitting REDP was on September 27, 2021.

The REDP is a planning tool that can help the ECs identify the most feasible and least-cost renewable energy development options. The said plan will set out indicative interim target of EC's share in the 35 percent

target of the government on RE Power Generation.

"As such, it will be an option if the EC decide to include the developmental schedule of owning Embedded Generation Facilities in its planning considering the EC's existing and future power contracts," the memorandum added.

The NEA earlier advised the ECs to adopt REDP in support of the Department of Energy's goal to achieve 35 percent Renewable Energy share in the power generation mix by 2030. ###

## NEA URGES ECS ... from page 3

The 'Bayanihan Bakunahan' program ran from November 29 to December 1, 2021. The nationwide activity aimed to vaccinate more Filipinos and sought to reduce active COVID-19 cases in the country.

Earlier, the ECs had expressed their readiness to assist the national government in its ongoing vaccination program, and even offered their facilities, such as multi-purpose halls and gymnasiums, to be used as vaccination sites.

The NEA also issued a memorandum in May this year, urging the ECs to observe due diligence to ensure the continuity of electricity supply to COVID-19 vaccine cold storage facilities and administration sites in their respective coverage areas.###

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