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# enerNEA

The Official Newsletter of the National Electrification Administration

# NEA CONDUCTS CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE WITH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



The National Electrification Administration (NEA) held a two-day Consultative Conference with the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) from 19 to 20 May 2022 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City. 113 ECs from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, represented mostly by General Managers, participated in the event.

NEA Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza set the direction of rural electrification in consideration of the new national leadership. In protecting the ECs interests, he invited them to ensure that their competency as business entities and providers shall be at par or better than that of the private companies. This entails revisiting their relationship with the MCOs and strengthening linkages with LGUs and members of the House of Representatives.

"We must review our resources for transitioning into renewable energy, it is part of the Philippine Energy Plan", the NEA Chief adds.



# COUNTDOWN TO THE 15-MILLION MARK ON CONSUMER CONNECTIONS BEGINS

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) is highly optimistic in reaching the 15 Millionth connection as this is a fulfillment of the Agency's mandated mission of bringing electricity to the countryside. Recent report on Consumer Connections shows that the number of consumers served is now 14,969,035, only 30,965 consumers less to reach another milestone in the Rural Electrification Program.



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## **NEA ACQUIRES 5-STAR ENERGY AUDIT RATING**





The Department of Energy (DOE) conducted an Energy Audit Spot Check on the compliance of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) with the Government Energy Management Program (GEMP) last 20 April 2022.

The agency was represented by its Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Officer, Deputy Administrator Sonia B. San Diego. The on-site energy audit inspection was assisted by Officer-in-Charge of Human Resources and Administration Department Annabelle P. Cruz, Officer-in-Charge of the General Services Division and EEC Focal Person Hernando N. Gabotero, GEMP Focal Person Estanislao D. Laxa, Jr. and Building and Ground Maintenance Head Geverglo S. Sotto.

The DOE Energy Audit Team interviewed OIC Cruz and her group regarding the agency's EEC programs as well as their best practices.

The NEA has garnered a score of 100% compliance with its spot check, resulting in an overall Energy Audit Rating of 94.5% equivalent to a Grade A, 5-star rating.

The performance assessment parameters of the spot check consist of the agency's observance of measures for EEC. The DOE energy auditors deemed NEA's updated energy efficiency systems for air conditioning, lighting, office equipment and fuels.

#### **NEA EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT TO AIEC**

A dialogue between National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza and members of the Association of Isolated Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) was held last 7 April 2022 at the HESA, NEA Building, Quezon City.

AIEC President Rene M. Fajilagutan, who is also the General Manager of Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ROMELCO), presented the completed AIEC projects. Among which are the Solar-Diesel-ESS Hybrid Systems of ROMELCO, Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANTECO) and Lubang Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LUBELCO), and the Smart Solar Hybrid System of Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO).

Their comprehensive list of projects in the pipeline include sites with advanced development, sites that are unelectrified according to their initial assessment and surveys, as well as the candidates for funding.

President Fajilagutan further elaborated areas of assistance and support being requested from NEA. First among these concerns is the increase in Subsidized Approved Generation Rate (SAGR).

They also requested funding for both the generation and distribution of off-grid electrification, the development of policies supporting the electric cooperatives (ECs) in the development of power generation facilities in off-grid, and in the availment of Universal Charge for Missionary Electrification (UCME) subsidy.

Additionally, they inquired about the procurement of power supply, the development of long term policies for off-grid ECs to be connected to the main grid, franchise application and renewal of registration.

In addressing all these key issues, Administrator Juaneza said that the NEA will do everything it can to support total electrification based on its accountability towards all ECs involved in these AIEC projects, guided by the corresponding by-laws and policies.

#### **COUNTDOWN TO THE 15-MILLION...** from page 1

"The NEA, in partnership with the Electric Cooperatives, will continue to bring light and hope to the people in the countryside", Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza said.

NEA Information Technology and Communication Services Department (ITCSD) will closely monitor the status of consumer connections so as not to miss this momentous event.

During the first quarter of 2022, a total of 129,560 new consumer connections were served representing 32% of the 400,000 targeted consumers for the year. This makes up nearly a third of the target within the first three months of this year alone.

With this accomplishment, the level of total consumer connections has reached 14,969,035 or 91% of the identified potential connections. Clustered into the major islands, 46% of the total connections or 6,990,614 are in Luzon, 27% or 3,969,748 are in Visayas and 27% or 4,008,673 are in Mindanao. About 1,287,305 or only 9% of the total potential consumers based on the 2015 Census of Population and Housing remains to be served.



#### DOE COMMENDS THE NEA POWER TASK FORCE ELECTION 2022 ON ITS SUCCESSFUL OPERATION



The National Electrification Administration (NEA) through the NEA Power Task Force Election (NPTFE) 2022 performed power situation monitoring to provide and maintain stable and continuous nationwide electric power requirements to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible conduct of the 9 May 2022 national and local elections.

The NPTFE tirelessly operated round the clock from coordinating with the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) to submitting Power Monitoring Reports (PMR) to the Department of Energy (DOE) starting 5 May 2022.

Three days after the elections, and when most of the local winning candidates were proclaimed, the NPTFE reduced its workforce on 12 May 2022 focusing more on areas under the ECs coverage identified by the COMELEC. During the period, there were no reports of major incidents of power interruptions.

In a press conference the following day, DOE Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella commended the NEA for its significant role in the successful power situation monitoring and coordination with the ECs across the country.







#### NEA RECONSTITUTES ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

In connection with Department of Energy (DOE) Order No. DO2021-09-0012 and Office Order No. 2021-1100, the National Electrification Administration Anti-Corruption Committee (NEA-ACC) has been reconstituted effective 6 April 2022.

Headed by its Chairperson, Atty. Rossan SJ. Rosero-Lee, the NEA-ACC shall implement and promote anti-corruption policies, measures, and programs for the agency. It shall also ensure compliance to the Memorandum of Agreement between the DOE and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) for "Project Kasangga: Aksyon Kontra Korapsyon."

Via a virtual convention held last 7 September 2021, the PACC launched the project. Through which, the PACC enjoins government agencies to engage in policing their own offices against corruption. This entails the creation of anti-corruption committees within agencies such as NEA-ACC. They shall ensure practice the of transparency accountability, and shall conduct investigations of possible corruption when necessary.

# NEA FACILITATES TRANSPORT OF SOLAR FLOOD LIGHTS AND GENERATOR SETS

Some Electric Cooperatives (ECs) that remain unenergized due to Typhoon Odette by the time the election transpire will be powered by solar flood lights and generator sets.

The Department of Energy (DOE) procured the necessary equipment, and enjoined the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to arrange the delivery of the items to the recipient ECs. NEA facilitated and financed the cargo plane transportation with budget allocation from the Agency's Internally Generated Funds, completing the delivery on 7 May 2022.

The power resources were distributed to the ECs accordingly. Bohol II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO II) received 450 pieces of solar floodlights while Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOLECO) received 270 pieces. Meanwhile, Surigao del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SURNECO) was provided with four (4) generator sets as well as 406 pieces of solar flood lights.

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# NEA CONDUCTS CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE WITH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

from page 1

In line with fortifying performance and solidarity, Board Member Agustin L. Maddatu emphasized that the consultative conference is the right forum for the ECs to develop resolutions for issues and concerns. He also mentioned that in the time of uncertainties like the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, the advent of recession and the soaring of fuel prices, the mandate must still be continued to be fulfilled.



To ground the collaborative workshop in facts, Director Ana Rosa D. Papa, concurrent Department Manager of the Office for Performance Assessment and Special Studies (OPASS) and Corporate Planning Office (CPO), presented the ECs' 2021 Performance Assessment. She identified the relevant EC progress, points for improvement, as well as the mechanics for determining assessment results.







The CPO, together with the representatives from different NEA Departments, spearheaded the breakaway group discussion. The ECs were clustered accordingly to encourage more focused discussions. The format for addressing each raised topic involved identifying the support they need from NEA, as well as the ECs' plans, programs, targets, and timelines.



Among the proposed resolutions are specific means to better communicate issues with DOE and ERC, to improve the allocation of funds, the transition to renewable energy, the quality of power supply and services, consumer connections, modernization of ECMCO linkages and systems, and compliance for franchise renewal.

NEA-EC Training Institute (NETI), headed by Director Nora I. Rivera, successfully organized the event with 93% of ECs in attendance.



# NEA COLLABORATES WITH EC INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

The Institutional Services Department (ISD) Managers of the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) attended a two-day Consultative Meeting on 31 May 2022 and 1 June 2022 at the National Electrification Administration (NEA) Building, Quezon City.

NEA Deputy Administrator for EC Management Services Sector Atty. Omar M. Mayo and Institutional Development Department Manager Nollie B. Alamillo acknowledged and welcomed the EC representatives, prefacing the relevant topics of the gathering.

First on the agenda was Consumer Development and Protection Division Acting Manager Arnel P. Galarpe's focus on the enhanced policy guidelines that the ECs need to abide by to meet the Overall Performance Assessment standards. The Board of Directors (BOD) and General Managers (GM) will be rated accordingly to assess good governance. In addition, the tentative Institutional Performance Assessment of ECs for 2021 was presented.

With regards to the District Election, Manager Percival G. Crisostomo of Organization and Management Development Division reiterated that the ECs are directed to faithfully adhere to their By-Laws on the schedule of the conduct of District Elections and Annual General Membership Assemblies (AGMA) so as not to deprive the rights of the Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs) to choose their representatives and be informed on the status of EC operation. He also cited the proposed Amendment on Allowances and Benefits.

To encourage more focused discussions, the participants were grouped based on their EC's geographical location - North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Island. The ECs recommendations, activities and programs, the support they need from NEA, as well as the recommended timelines were discussed.

Deputy Administrator for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Sonia B. San Diego, in her opening remarks on the second day, asked the ISD Managers to spread the good news to the MCOs in terms of service excellence and reasonable rates. According to her, the ISD Managers have a great job to undertake especially now that there are several governance issues concerning the ECs.

Atty. Vic P. Alvaro, NEA Legal Services Office Department Manager, imparted a refresher on Rules Governing NEA Administrative Cases and Election-related issues.







Among the major issues raised during the workshop were: conduct of AGMA, ECs' submission of documents, NEA's acknowledgement and feedback, EC BODs' continuing qualifications and disqualifications, terms and tenure in office, applicants for BOD screening process, BOD mandatory training, and MCO organization and incentives. There was also an exchange about modifying requirements for ECs with very slow internet connection for submitting reports.

Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza stated that strengthening the relationship between ECs and MCOs can dampen the attempts of large private competitors from encroaching EC franchise areas. With that, he congratulated the ISD Managers on their role in the recent advancement of the ECs and MCOs. He encouraged them to continue exemplify the key qualities of EC services-reliable, affordable, and sustainable–amidst ever present challenges.

"You are very influential on how ECs can progress," the NEA Chief told the ISD Managers.

The program concluded on another hopeful note with Deputy Administrator Rossan SJ. Rosero-Lee's assurance that all issues will be thoroughly examined and addressed by the concerned departments.

Former ISD Managers who have grown to be General Managers of their respective cooperatives were also given tribute.

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### **News Around the ECs**

#### MAGELCO COMMITS TO RESTRUCTURING ARREARS WITH NGCP

Last 9 June 2022, a meeting was held at the National Electrification Administration (NEA) regarding the outstanding balance of Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MAGELCO) to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).

Governor Suharto "Teng" T. Mangudadatu, Administrative Officer Juniza Magana and some staff members attended in behalf of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Sultan Kudarat. Likewise, the LGU of Maguindanao was represented by Governor Bai Mariam Sangki-Mangudadatu, Atty. Cyrus Torrena and other staff members.

"We have to first improve our services," Governor Teng Mangudadatu said as a prerequisite to complying with the payment. "And we will develop our financial program further."

MAGELCO officials, including Board President Saikuna R. Mamokhan, Board Vice-President Akmad M. Ali, and the representative of the Province of Maguindanao to MAGELCO, Minister Parliament and Independent Director Datu Ali B. Sangki, were in agreement that this entailed the restructuring of arrears.

In modifying the terms of payment to NGCP, MAGELCO seeks to protect the interests of its constituents as well as be given the opportunity to continue developing its services and financial programs.



The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) expressed their appreciation to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for its support in the peace process with the Rebolusyonaryong Partido Manggagawa ng Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade-Tabara Paduano Group (RPM-P/RPA/ABB-TPG), now called KAPATIRAN.

OPAPRU commended the Aklan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AKELCO) being one of the dozens of government agencies who converged to witness the inauguration and signing of partnership agreements. Ibajay Peace and Development Community (PDC) Site is the first housing awarding event for the KAPATIRAN in Panay Island.

As such, OPAPRU and KAPATIRAN acknowledges how NEA and AKELCO contributed to the relative success of the Normalization Program through the inter-agency efforts towards achieving durable and sustainable peace.

The groundbreaking and turnover ceremonies of various projects in the KAPATIRAN PDC in Ibajay, Aklan was held last 10 March 2022



In response, NGCP President Anthony L. Almeda agreed to the deferment of disconnection pending an immediate submission of the proposal detailing the said restructuring.

The following day, the electric cooperative, together with the LGUs and the Project Supervisor to MAGELCO, NEA Director Bienvenida M. Tongol, fulfilled the agreed-upon resolution signed by the MAGELCO Board and the two (2) Governors.

The NGCP has acknowledged the proposal promptly submitted by MAGELCO, officially and effectively deferring the disconnection.

# PENELCO'S TAKE ON THE LUZON GRID POWER OUTAGE

The Peninsula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PENELCO) informed the National Electrification Administration (NEA) regarding its underbuilt lines that allegedly caused a transmission outage on 18 June 2022. PENELCO explained that their 13.2kV distribution line in Brgy. Imelda, Samal, Bataan was built in 1995 even before the construction of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines' (NGCP) Hermosa-BCCPP 230kV transmission line.

"Since its energization on 18 March 1995, there was enough clearance between PENELCO's distribution line and NGCP's transmission line, thereby both lines operating normally," PENELCO General Manager Loreto A. Marcelino said in its letter to NEA.

The Electric Cooperative (EC) later learned that in October 2012, NGCP conducted resizing to bigger wire, from 795MCM to 410mm², contributory to increase the sag due to heavier weight than the original size of wire. As there was no record of trouble from 2012, the perception is that there was additional load on the transmission line that heated up the conductor resulting in a very low sag clearance between the distribution and transmission lines causing this outage.

After the outage that led to the placement of Luzon Grid on Yellow and Red Alert Status, PENELCO took the initiative to correct the clearances but the grid operator told the EC to remove their distribution lines.



## **News Around the ECs**

# PANELCO I COMPLIES WITH THE 2019 ERC REFUND ORDER

Last 22 October 2019, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) adopted a policy that Distribution Utilities (DUs) with Compliance Filings with a resulting net over-recovery shall be directed to immediately refund the over-recovery.

In compliance with the consequent ERC Case 2017-026-CF Order dated 05 December 2019, Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative (PANELCO I) has implemented directives to fulfill the refund order. Attesting to this are the Electric Cooperative's (EC) records submitted to the ERC. Hence, the news issuance statement that the EC is yet to refund the amount of PhP24.9M is in urgent need of updating. The most recent reports of PANELCO I show that they have already refunded the amount of PhP18.7M as of April 2022, leaving only the amount of PhP4.6M to be refunded.

# LASURECO COMMITS TO SETTLING THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE WITH PSALM

On behalf of the Local Government of Lanao del Sur, Governor Mamintal Alonto Adiong, Jr. called for a Zoom meeting on 8 June 2022 with Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) and Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LASURECO) with the objective to resolve the concern of LASURECO's obligation to PSALM. LASURECO will then write a letter to PSALM, which will contain the initial commitment to pay an amount that shall be determined.

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) participated through the attendance of Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza, designated LASURECO Project Supervisor Federico P. Villar, Jr., and Ms. Estrellita S. Volante and Mr. Aljohn S. Calapatia, both from Management and Consultancy Services Office (MCSO).

"I will bring the matter to the NEA Board of Administrators (BOA)," Administrator Juaneza said regarding the possible financial assistance that the agency can provide to the cooperative.

In connection with LASURECO´s letter of commitment to PSALM, the Local Government of Lanao del Sur requested PSALM to defer LASURECO's power supply disconnection for the interest of its constituents. Governor Adiong also committed to discussing with the municipal mayors of the province how they can help LASURECO pay its obligation to PSALM and requested PSALM for three (3) months to carry this out.

The Local Government of Lanao del Sur shall call for another meeting with PSALM, LASURECO, NEA, and DOE, among others, to come up with a resolution for the matter arising from the recently concluded meeting on the concerns of LASURECO and other stakeholders.

#### **NEA LAUDS BISELCO'S MILESTONES**

Several milestones happened recently in Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO).

First on the list is the inauguration of BISELCO's Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs) Building in Barangay Poblacion 6, Coron, Palawan on 10 June 2022. Administrator Emmanuel Juaneza applauded BISELCO for steadily taking reform initiatives in the shared aspiration of empowering the MCOs.

On the same day, the Administrator and BISELCO General Manager Ruth L. Fortes led the ceremonial energization of 100 households in Barangay Tara under the Municipality of Coron. In his speech, Administrator Juaneza thanked BISELCO for being a solid partner of the government in forging socio-economic change in the country through Rural Electrification.

He acknowledged the assistance of the Provincial Government of Palawan and the National Power Corporation (NPC) in providing electricity to Barangay Tara. "I would like to commend the initiative of the NPC in providing necessary assistance for the installation of generator sets and construction of distribution lines and, of course, the Provincial Government of Palawan for funding the said distribution lines under the Village Electrification Program," the NEA Chief said.

The Administrator likewise attended the turn-over ceremony of Portable Solar Home System units at Sitio Depelenged in Busuanga on 11 June 2022. Sixty-two (62) households were able to receive the Solar Home System units under the Total Electrification Program 2 (TEP 2) of the Department of Energy (DOE). Administrator Juaneza stated that this project is a bold step of transitioning from conventional to renewable energy to provide efficient, reliable, safe and affordable electricity supply.

"Certainly, BISELCO has unfailingly kept its commitment of being a dependable and consumer-oriented power provider that the MCOs can rely on," said the Administrator.

Administrator Juaneza also proclaimed Mr. Segundo E. Aguilar as the elected District 4 representative. Mr. Aguilar will be serving his second term as member of the BISELCO Board of Directors.



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## **Employees Corner**

#### **EMPLOYEES ARE BOOSTED**

A COVID-19 Booster Vaccination for NEA Employees and other Building Occupants was once again conducted by The Quezon City Government. The COVID-19 Booster Vaccination were held at the NEA H.E.S. Auditorium. Thirty three (33) employees and 11 service partners received the shot on 10 June 2022 bringing a total 279 out of 414 building occupants already received their COVID-19 booster shot.





#### PENELCO's Take... from page 6

"Hindi puwedeng ilipat ang linya kasi walang ibang dadaanan kundi sa ilalim ng transmission line. Kung hindi kami dadaan diyan, we cannot serve the community," PENELCO Engr. Edwin C. Zaldivar said in a virtual meeting with NEA officials last 21 June 2022.

NEA Engineering Department Manager Engr. Federico P. Villar, Jr. and Principal Engr. Bonifacio T. David then suggested to look into the feasibility that the EC, in collaboration with the NGCP, can extend assistance. That could either be insulating an enough length of distribution line or having it underground in accordance with the standards to meet the safety clearance.

PENELCO also reported that the crossing of distribution and transmission lines occurs in other parts of Bataan. NEA Administrator Emmanuel P. Juaneza instructed the EC to survey or inspect those lines to avoid the same problem. The EC concurred and suggested a joint inspection with NGCP to better resolve the matter.

#### **NEA EMPLOYEES VISIT PENELCO AND BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**



The staff of the Corporate Planning Office (CPO) and Office for Performance Assessment and Special Studies (OPASS) conducted a three-day educational tour in Bataan as part of its team-building activities on 22 - 24 April 2022.

Headed by CPO and OPASS Department Manager Ana Rosa Papa, the team visited the Peninsula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PENELCO) to talk about the latest updates on issues affecting NEA and the Electric Cooperatives (ECs).

They also explored the historical Mount Samat National Shrine or "Dambana ng Kagitingan" and the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Recently, Pres. Rodrigo Duterte directed an inter-agency panel to make recommendations on the use and viability of the BNPP as he signed an executive order to include nuclear power in the country's energy mix.

The CPO-OPASS educational tour aims to build camaraderie and promote morale and mental health wellness among its personnel.

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