



enerNEA

The Official Newsletter of the National Electrification Administration

NEA Assembles 261 Lineworkers to Restore Power After Typhoon 'Pepito'

At least 261 electrification workers from Luzon and Visayas were deployed to speed up power restoration efforts in Aurora, Catanduanes and Nueva Vizcaya—three provinces that sustained heavy energy infrastructure damage in the aftermath of Typhoon 'Pepito.'

Based on its latest situation report, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) said the teams organized under Task Force Kapatid (TFK) were mobilized on November 19.

Forty-three (43) lineworkers from Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan would help rehabilitate the power lines of the Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative (NUVELCO), which has 43,274 consumers still without electricity. Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija sent a total of 23 personnel to augment the technical team of Aurora Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AURELCO), which already started repairing its powerlines after experiencing total power interruption during the height of 'Pepito.'

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NEA WELCOMES DOE-DOF JMC ON ECs' AVAILMENT OF PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) welcomed the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) of the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Finance (DOF) providing the guidelines for the availment of certain local tax exemptions by Electric Cooperatives (ECs).

"The availment of these preferential rights will help the ECs allocate monetary resources to better pursue our common purpose of nation-building," NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda said at the signing ceremony held on 04 December 2024 at the Minority Conference Office in Batasan Pambansa.

"We, at the NEA, are optimistic about the outcome of the JMC, as well as its positive impact on our ECs and, ultimately their member-consumer-owners," he added, assuring all concerned parties and stakeholders of the agency's full support regarding its effective implementation.

The JMC will pave the way for all ECs registered with both the NEA and the Cooperative Development Authority to avail of the preferential rights under the law, subject to their compliance with prescribed financial and operational standards set by the NEA.

Administrator Almeda said the NEA will release the guidelines, within 15 days of the effectivity of the JMC, outlining the parameters which the ECs must meet so they can be issued the necessary 'Certificate of Compliance' for the availment of preferential rights.

He thanked Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Finance Secretary Ralph Recto for signing the JMC, which gives all ECs operating nationwide "the opportunity to better balance their mandatory contributions to local government with their duty to deliver effective services."

The NEA chief likewise acknowledged the contributions of party-list representatives Presley de Jesus of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (PHILRECA) and Sergio Dagooc of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (APEC), who helped the agency push for the JMC.

The JMC is guided by the provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160 or the Local Government Code in accordance with state policies defined under RA 10531 or the National Electrification Reform Act of 2013.

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Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija sent a total of 23 personnel to augment the technical team of Aurora Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AURELCO), which already started repairing its powerlines after experiencing total power interruption during the height of 'Pepito.'

The largest TFK contingent was deployed to the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO) with 195 members from electric cooperatives (EC) based in Bicol, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, and Eastern Visayas.

Catanduanes bore the brunt of 'Pepito' in its super typhoon phase last weekend, which forced FICELCO to temporarily suspend its services, affecting 52,322 customers. An additional 66-person unit from Western Visayas will also be mobilized to join the ongoing power restoration efforts.

As this developed, the NEA-DRRMD noted that previously assembled TFK teams are still working to fully restore power distribution services in areas badly hit by Typhoons Marce and Nika earlier, particularly in Cagayan (CAGELCO II), Isabela (ISELCO I), and Quirino (QUIRELCO).



Meanwhile, the initial estimated cost of damage to EC power distribution assets of four major typhoons—Marce, Ofel, Nika, and Pepito—already reached a combined total of P144,915,463.35 with P101,406,377.58 worth of damage attributed to 'Pepito' alone.



NEA AT THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The NEA participated in the 2024 International Convention on Women, Peace and Security (ICWPS) at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

In attendance during the opening day of the conference were NEA Deputy Administrator for Legal Services Rossan Rosero-Lee and Management and Consultancy Services Office Department Manager Luisa Hernandez. Also present were Engr. Jennifer Gemota and Jezrel Tado from the Cotabato Electric Cooperative, Inc. (COTELCO).

The Philippines hosted the ICWPS with the theme "Forging Collaboration and Convergence for Advancing Women, Peace, and Security." The conference serves as an avenue for developing collaborative strategies for overcoming barriers to women's full and meaningful participation in peacemaking and the mainstreaming of gender in the promotion of peace and security.



NEA Honored as One of the Top-Ranking GOCCs

The NEA led by Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda accepted three awards from the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) for its outstanding performance as a state-owned corporation during the 2021-2023 calendar year.

In a ceremony held at the PICC Complex in Pasay City, the NEA was honored for being one of the top-ranking GOCCs in the past year based on the Corporate Governance Scorecard of the GCG. It was also recognized for achieving 'perfect scores' in terms of managing stakeholder relationship as well as on the area of disclosure and transparency.



Photo courtesy of PHILRECA (via Facebook)

NEA, PHILRECA Deploy Task Force Kapatid to Batanes in 'Julian' Aftermath

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) and Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) activated Task Force Kapatid (TFK) over the weekend to aid in the rehabilitation efforts of calamity-hit Batanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATANELCO). At least 17 linemen and two engineers from the NEA Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) were deployed on 05 October 2024, to support the workers of BATANELCO, who are dealing with the effects of Super Typhoon 'Julian.'

The additional manpower was provided by the Northeast Luzon Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. (NELECA) from the Cagayan Valley region, including Isabela (ISELCO I and II), Cagayan (CAGELCO I and II), Nueva Vizcaya (NUVELCO), and Quirino (QUIRELCO). BATANELCO General Manager Victoria Mata welcomed the teams and hosted lunch upon their arrival. hereafter, the visiting task force members were briefed about their respective assignments.

Also present were BATANELCO Technical Services Department (TSD) Manager Donald Poncio with engineers, Institutional Services Department (ISD) Manager Marilys Ponce and Corporate Planning (CorPlan) Supervisor Lynne Zhaine Gonzales to provide additional information.

The NEA-DRRMD together with the TSD and CorPlan personnel are expected to conduct damage assessment in the remaining areas of Batanes, which have not yet been inspected. BATANELCO was the hardest-hit EC during the onslaught of the recent storm.

Based on the updated monitoring report, BATANELCO continues to experience power interruptions with 6,329 consumers affected, particularly in the municipalities of Ivana, Mahatao and Uyugan.

Electricity services for the towns of Sabtang and Basco were partially restored while the municipality of Itbayat resumed normal operations. BATANELCO said it incurred P19.588-million initial cost of damage in the aftermath of 'Julian.'

Rural Electrification Sector Absorbs Over 70-M Damage from Storm 'Kristine'

At least 24 electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide reported hefty potential losses in the wake of severe tropical storm 'Kristine' after the initial estimated cost of damage to power infrastructure reached P70,251,981.09, the latest data from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) showed.

The recent weather disturbance triggered declarations of state of calamity across many provinces nationwide—particularly in the Calabarzon, Bicol, and Eastern Visayas regions—and disrupted electricity services.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda said the affected ECs are working tirelessly to bring their power distribution operations back to normal as soon as possible. Task Force Kapatid (TFK) was recently activated to augment manpower for the ongoing restoration efforts in the hardest-hit co-ops. In an interview with PTV, he said the repair of damaged distribution lines continues in the franchise areas of ECs in Albay (ALECO), Batangas (BATELEC I), Camarines Sur (CASURECO II and III), and Pangasinan (PANELCO I).

"So far, we already almost fully energized most of the areas aside from these areas that I mentioned earlier. One thing that we made sure are the critical services, which means the hospitals and the evacuation centers are energized," Administrator Almeda added.

The NEA chief noted that the ports in Allen and Matnog, Sorsogon are likewise energized to ensure smooth operations in the transport of goods and services. He said he expects the TFK contingents deployed in the affected ECs to speed up the energization.

According to the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), majority of the ECs cited flooding and line obstructions among their biggest challenges in the restoration process. Other problems were attributed to generation and transmission issues.

Administrator Almeda also explained that damage assessment in the storm-hit ECs is still incomplete as additional reports are still coming in, especially in areas that remain flooded. He, however, assured that actions continue from the NEA and EC allied organizations to mitigate potential heavier losses.

"In any case, tuloy-tuloy naman ang aming pagtulong at pag-augment, pagpapadala ng mga (we continuously assist and augment resources by sending) additional manpower, additional boom trucks to fully help the affected areas restore electricity," he said.

Administrator Almeda added that contingency measures are already in place as well for the possible impact of Typhoon 'Leon,' which is now threatening Batanes Island once again. He said the province is yet to fully recover from the effects of Super Typhoon 'Julian.'

The NEA chief said he already directed the seven TFK teams, who were earlier deployed to assist in power restoration efforts in the aftermath of 'Julian,' to stay in Batanes in preparation for the landfall of 'Leon.'



NEA Anticipates Better Rates with Groundbreaking of EBATECH-NORSAMELCO Hydropower Plant

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) and the Provincial Government of Northern Samar look forward to improved electricity rates and services for the member-consumer-owners (MCOs) of the Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) with its soon-to-rise 3.18-megawatt Mawo Hydroelectric Power Plant.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda joined Northern Samar Governor Edwin Ongchuan on 09 November 2024 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the project. It will be constructed at Brgy. Happy Valley in San Isidro, Northern Samar. The Mawo Hydroelectric



Power Plant is a joint venture between the Energy & Building Applications Technologies Corp. (EBATECH) and NORSAMELCO. It will be part of both firms' contributions towards the sustainable energy initiatives of both the national and local governments. The embedded power generation facility will be designed to harness the San Isidro Mawo River for the benefit of households and enterprises under the franchise area of NORSAMELCO. The project is expected to be completed and operational by 01 January 2028.

According to a project briefer, this power plant will significantly reduce generation costs passed on to the MCOs of NORSAMELCO by P0.4482 per kilowatt hour, equivalent to P84,005,474 in annual rates. It is also projected to boost vital energy assets of the Catarman-based electric cooperative. Under the joint venture agreement, NORSAMELCO has 20-percent ownership interest. The NEA already approved the construction of the project and the companies involved have likewise secured the consent of the communities in Happy Valley and San Isidro. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) also issued certificate of incorporation for the EBATECH-NORSAMELCO Energy Corporation, which grants juridical personality to both organizations that will be jointly operating the power plant.

Also present at the groundbreaking ceremony were Northern Samar Governor Edwin Ongchuan, Vice Governor Clarence Dato, San Isidro Councilor Joel Sampayan, Deputy Administrators Engr. Butch Silvano and Atty. Vic Alvaro, Professor Wali Del Mundo, NORSAMELCO Acting General Manager Engr. Hector Tabilisma, EBATECH President/CEO Engr. Ernesto Abunda, Jr., Joint Venture President Engr. Kelvin Thomas Abunda, FRECOR 8 General Managers Allan Laniba, Atty. Edison Piczon, Atty. Jose Michael Edwin Amancio, Joey Talon, NEA Department Manager Ruth Ramirez, Division Manager Engr. Raymond Napilot and Project Supervisor Bhoiet Acuesta.

NOVEMBER STORMS DESTROY P40.67M WORTH OF EC POWER DISTRIBUTION ASSETS

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) reported that the initial estimated cost of damage to electric cooperative (EC) facilities attributed to the four major storms that hit the Philippines this month reached a combined total of P40,675,916.70.

The latest figure covers the trails of destruction left on the rural electrification sector by Typhoons 'Marce' (Yinxing), 'Nika' (Toraji), 'Ofel' (Usagi), and 'Pepito' (Man-Yi), which slammed into almost the same regions and provinces.

Data released by the NEA Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) placed at least 27 ECs operating in 21 provinces from seven regions under close and continuous monitoring in the wake of the consecutive tropical cyclones.

According to the NEA-DRRMD, four ECs namely AURELCO in Aurora, FICELCO in Catanduanes, NUVELCO in Nueva Vizcaya, and QUIRELCO in Quirino had to temporarily shutdown their operations due to the effects of 'Pepito,' which developed into super typhoon.

The NEA-DRRMD noted in its latest situational report that power restoration efforts continue in 22 ECs under partial power interruption status through the Task Force Kapatid (TFK). Several TFK teams have been organized and deployed in critical areas to accelerate line clearing and rehabilitation operations.

Thus far, 314 out of 376 municipalities (83.51 percent) covered by the affected ECs are either fully or partially energized. Damage assessments continue as the NEA-DRRMD receives updates and additional reports from EC technical teams on the ground.

News Around the ECs



NEA Chief Almada Leads Energization of Sitio Tabok, Samar

Administrator Antonio Mariano Almada of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) led on Sunday, 04 November 2024, the energization of Sitio Tabok in Barangay Peña located in the Tinambacan district of Calbayog City, Samar. The community received the benefits of electricity through the Sitio Energization Program (SEP) of the NEA facilitated by the Samar I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SAMELCO I). The households were connected through power distribution lines operated and maintained by the co-op to the existing energy grid.

Administrator Almada and SAMELCO I General Manager Atty. Edson Piczon held a traditional switch-on ceremony in the remote neighborhood to celebrate this development with the residents and barangay officials led by acting chairperson Maribel Damalla-Senolos. Also present were SAMELCO I Board President Leonardo Piczon, Jr. Vice President Melinda Briones, and Director Editha Serrato. Residents Gina Lutoc and Emielor Caspe spoke on behalf of the SEP beneficiaries in their sitio to express their gratitude for this rural electrification project.

SEP is one of the long running programs of the state-owned corporation to achieve its 100 percent total electrification target by 2028. In 2023, the NEA and its partner electric cooperatives nationwide energized a total of 1,148 sitios.

Power Returns to Siargao, Bucas Grandes Islands After 13-day Blackout



The Siargao Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SIARELCO) restored electricity services to its entire franchise area on Saturday, 14 December 2024, after fixing a major line fault in one of its undersea cables, which caused widespread power outage affecting many households and businesses for 13 days. National Electrification Administration (NEA) chief Antonio Mariano Almada visited Siargao to commission a four-megawatt modular generator set.

The genset was part of the imported alternative sources of electricity delivered by neighboring electric cooperatives to SIARELCO in critical areas while it was working to repair the damaged power line. In a brief commissioning ceremony held at Brgy. Roxas, San Isidro, Surigao del Norte, Administrator Almada said SIARELCO committed to fully restore its electricity services by December 20. SIARELCO was able to complete the restoration process within the day.

"I commend your resilience in trying to adapt to the situation in a speedy manner," he said. This would enable the member-consumer-owners of SIARELCO to welcome the upcoming holidays with ease. The NEA chief also inspected the unloading, installation and commissioning of the 8-megawatt gensets from Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO) that will serve as additional augmented power supply.

News Around the ECs



NEA Chief Almeda joins AMRECO's Annual General Membership Assembly and Year-end Gathering

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda attended the 2024 Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) and yearend gathering of the Association of Mindanao Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AMRECO) on Thursday, 21 November 2024, at the Limketkai Luxe Hotel in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental.

In his remarks, Administrator Almeda said he was happy to celebrate with the Mindanao-based ECs while recounting the challenges he had to deal with over the past couple of years when he took over the NEA leadership.

"I am proud that we were able to surpass those challenges... Sa tulong ng lahat ng mga taong nasa harapan ko ngayon, lahat po 'yan ay na-solve ng National Electrification Administration," he said, referring to the mismanaged ECs that the agency is trying to reform.

The AMRECO celebration was made extra special as Administrator Almeda marked his second year in office. He told all EC leaders present he would not give up until they are able to bring the electrification rate of Mindanao up, particularly in the Bangsamoro region.

"As we near the end of 2024, I am reminded of the vital role that AMRECO and its member ECs play in empowering Mindanao's communities. Through your unwavering dedication, even the most remote areas are illuminated, bringing light and hope to countless lives," the NEA Chief underscored.

NEA, DOE TURN OVER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TFK MEMBERS

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda and Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella turned over cash and gift cards worth P2.65-million as financial assistance to the members of Task Force Kapatid (TFK), who helped restore electricity in calamity-hit electric cooperatives (ECs). The TFK beneficiaries will receive P5,000 each coursed through the National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives (NAGMEC) represented by its president and LEYECO 3 General Manager Allan Laniba. "Through this small gesture, we hope to express the energy family's gratitude and give back to our electrification workers who readily answered the call of duty," Administrator Almeda said in a ceremony held at the NEA office in Quezon City. Also present at the ceremony were DOE Assistant Secretary and NEA alternate chairman Mario Marasigan, Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PHILRECA) General Manager Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan, and the general managers of participating ECs in the TFK initiative. The turnover ceremony was held on Thursday, 12 December 2024.



Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) brings light to 38 households in Malitbog, Bukidnon

Ceremonial Energization of Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) took place at Sitio Tingag Upper, San Luis, Malitbog. The event celebrated the successful electrification of 38 households, made possible by a total project cost of 1.8 million pesos from the National Electrification Administration (NEA).



Employees Corner

HIRING

Congratulations to the six (6) newly hired employees.

CASTRO, LOUIS JAY T.

Driver-Mechanic B
Office of the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations (ODAFO)

ABRIOL, DAN KENARD C.

Supervising Economist
Corporate Planning Office (CPO)

DELGADO, DOMINGO P.

Driver-Mechanic B
Institutional Development Division (IDD)

FRANCISCO, MARK IAN D.

Engineer A
Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Division (DRRMD)

GALVEZ, JAYZEN P.

Driver-Mechanic B
Office of the Deputy Administrator for Field Operations (ODAFO)

PEREZ, ROWENA R.

Senior Accounting Processor A
Finance Services Department (FSD)



NEA Turns Over Cash and In Kind Donations for Typhoon-Affected Residents of Aurora

The NEA employees turned over on Friday, 27 December 2024, P100,000 cash and in kind donation for the benefit of typhoon-affected residents of Aurora. The amount was collected from the recent 'Light-a-Tree Donation Drive' organized by NEA as part of the annual holiday season activities.

NEA WELCOMES THE 2024 HOLIDAY SEASON



The NEA formally welcomes the 2024 holiday season on Friday, 06 December 2024, with Administrator Antonio Mariano Almada leading the traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony together with his fellow executives and employees of the agency.



PELCO I CELEBRATES NEA DAY

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almada traveled to Santo Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga on Friday, 27 December 2024, to celebrate the annual NEA Day hosted by Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO I).

PELCO I organizes this event every year to acknowledge its enduring partnership with the state-owned corporation in advancing rural electrification. Deputy Administrators Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee, Atty. Omar Mayo, together with other NEA employees, also joined the activity.

In his remarks, Administrator Almada honored the people working behind the scenes and on the frontlines, who keep the lights on for the member-consumer-owners of PELCO I.

The NEA chief congratulated the electric cooperative (EC) for being a "consistent ally" of the agency in providing reliable electricity in rural Pampanga.

"I thank PELCO I for accepting the challenge and obtaining the ISO Certification 9001:2015. It is not an easy task, and I know how difficult it is to achieve such certification, I congratulate each and everyone of you." Administrator Almada said.

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