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10 August 2021

NEA touts accomplishments on its 52nd anniversary

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) celebrated the major accomplishments of the agency and the 121 electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide at the recently concluded 2021 Consultative Conference.

Speaking at the virtual NEA-EC Consultative Conference on August 5, Administrator Edgardo Masongsong cited the agency's significant strides over the past years, which include the continuing implementation of the rural electrification projects.

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, Masongsong said 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.

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

Masongsong also reported the operational and financial milestones under his term. He said the agency has sustained its profitability, paid P329.5 million in corporate taxes, and remitted P411.712 million in dividends to the national government from 2016 to 2020.

The NEA also paid P3.175 billion to the national government for the advances made on the agency's foreign loan obligations. The remaining balance of P428 million is set to be paid within this year.

The NEA also released a total of P5.628 billion worth of loans to ECs through the agency's Lending and Guarantee Program from 2017 to June 2021. "We were also able to sustain high collection efficiency of about 100 percent," the administrator said.

He also cited 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.

The NEA-EC Consultative Conference was part of the month-long celebration of the 12th National Electrification Awareness Month and 52nd Anniversary of NEA, anchored on the theme "NEA-ECs: Arise as One, Championing National Development and Building Sustainable Communities through Rural Electrification."

Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, in his message during the NEA-EC Consultative Conference, 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.

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 revised policy on EC Overall Performance Assessment; 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; and the Green Energy Option program.

On August 2, the National Linemen Appreciation Day was held virtually in recognition of the hard work and dedication of all line workers nationwide. On August 11, the ECs will conduct simultaneous tree-planting and line clearing activities in their respective franchise areas nationwide. ###

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