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NEA: BENECO to condone penalties for late payment due to ongoing conflict

The Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) has resolved to condone penalties for late payment of electricity bills due to the ongoing conflict at the power distribution utility.

In a report to NEA Administrator Emmanuel Juaneza on Wednesday (October 20), BENECO Project Supervisor Atty. Omar Mayor said his team was able to implement the NEA Board Resolution 2021-106 on Monday (October 18).

Copies of such Board Resolution were also personally served to BENECO Board President Atty. Esteban Somngi, other suspended directors, and BENECO Institutional Services Manager Atty. Delmar Carino.

Project Supervisor Mayo also noted the deployment of emergency tellers on Tuesday (October 19) because no employee reported for work that day. He said BENECO's consolidated collections from different payment centers were close to a million pesos from power consumers at South Drive payment center alone which was then deposited to LandBank under the account of BENECO.

He said the NEA team also requested Baguio City Police Station to increase visibility patrols, specifically in the locations of substations and other facilities within Baguio City. He said such request was meant to ensure continuous delivery of electricity service.

"To avoid further complicating the situation, the NEA Team issued an advisory closing the South Drive for business on October 20," Atty. Mayo said in a report to Administrator Juaneza.

"The NEA Team has gained traction towards normalcy of operations with the return of several linemen to the fold," the BENECO project supervisor added.

BENECO Project Supervisor Mayo also made a number of recommendations, which include tapping neighboring electric cooperatives (ECs) in Luzon to assist the power distribution utility in addressing consumer complaints. ###

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