



PHILIPPINE
RURAL
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES
ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

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United We Stand. We Stand United.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 October 2021

Member-consumer-owners storm BENECO to protest NEA takeover; demand Rafael and Mayo to leave BENECO

Member-consumer-owners organized a peaceful rally at BENECO to protest NEA takeover of the distribution utility. They are demanding that NEA-appointed Rafael, Mayo, and other NEA representatives leave the premises of BENECO offices.

It can be recalled that the BENECO Board of Directors appointed Engr. Melchor S. Licoben as the new General Manager of the Electric Cooperative after the retirement its former GM, the later Gerry Verzosa. The National Electrification Administration however has endorsed and eventually “appointed” a different applicant (Rafael), which the Board of Directors and the member-consumer-owners rejected through a resolution approved and ratified during the General Assembly. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives revealed that Rafael did not meet the qualifications for an EC general manager as set by the NEA itself.

NEA deputized the Philippine National Police to implement its decision and with this order, at around 2:40 AM, armed personnel from the Philippine National Police forced their way in full battle gear inside the premises of BENECO.

PHILRECA has expressed its strongest condemnation on the acts of NEA and PNP (read full statement here: <http://web.philreca.org/press-releases/philreca-condemns-to-the-highest-level-the-cruelty-harassment-and-oppression-by-nea-and-the-pnp-against-beneco/>).

This is a developing story.###