

## **MESSAGE OF ADMINISTRATOR EDGARDO R. MASONGSONG**

**NEA BIT GO LIVE: 26 May, 9am**

For more than a year now, the entire nation is experiencing a pandemic of unmatched proportions never-before seen. Unescapable lockdowns are having profound economic effects on the lives of every Filipino. Consumers of Electric Cooperatives from life-liners to industrial big loads are feeling the tight grip of the situation. Urban and rural economies are taking a nose-dive, with individuals and businesses alike pinching every peso and implementing measures to preserve finite resources. Included in these measures are cost-cutting initiatives that were borne out of the virtual environment revolution now taking place. Even physical meetings and unnecessary travels are very much limited, replaced by virtual meetings on almost all occasions.

Thus, there is no better time than what we are ushering today. We are bringing back into action, the NEA Business Intelligence Technology (NEA-BIT) platform.

Way back in 2016, both the WB and NEA came to a realization that a business intelligence and analytics structure could be a “game changer” for the electricity sector. During its 2 years of implementation, NEA was able to extract actionable items and performance matrices out of the reports and structured data from the Electric Cooperatives. Strategically, NEA has started focusing on the valuable insights of operational efficiency, technical proficiency and business productivity of ECs, geared towards NEA’s 7-point agenda, more specifically on rural development.

From the Technical Assistance provided by ASEP and administered by the WB, the grand plan was for NEA to eventually totally fund NEA BIT from its own IGF. However, the onset of the Covid19 pandemic in the early part of 2020 undeniably impacted the transition of NEA BIT into the domain of NEA. This inevitably slowed down the contract bidding process and halted the continuous implementation of the Project.

More than a year hence, to address the consistent clamor from the ECs, and with my full support and confidence on the potential of the technology as a game changer, **WE BRING YOU BACK, NEA BIT.**

As NEA is now funding the Project, which also includes Cloud Infrastructure Support, we are contemplating on the economic angle, on how to secure maintenance costs which runs into millions per year. We are looking at the possibility of cost-sharing with the ECs or to package a set of NEA services, which will include NEA BIT, for a “token fee” from the ECs. However, these are all part of the strategic thinking of NEA’s financing schemes and has yet to be finalized.

What is clear to all of us now is that we have to take advantage of this tool, of this platform, that centers on the ease of doing business between NEA and the ECs. Less paper works, less courier services, less physical interaction in this time of the pandemic, if not altogether elimination all of these. However, let me remind one and all that electronic submissions to the NEA BIT portal will be strengthened by an Affidavit to be signed by the EC GM and NEA Bit Focal Person, that the documents submitted are true and correct. This is to foster seriousness and responsible ownership of the data submitted and to eliminate being trigger-happy in submissions. Details of this would be discussed later.

Let me take this opportunity, to thank our new contractors on-board, QUESTRONIX/ INDRA for software development, and Software Venture International for cloud services. Welcome to the NEA-EC family.

More importantly, I would like to give credit to the NEA BIT Project Management Team, headed by the oversight ITCSD Director Rod Padua and Project Manager Shirley Salvador, both of whom spearheaded NEA BIT from its inception to implementation to its “resurrection”. I would also like to mention the Data Governance Team and other key players from the NEA Finance Sector, MCSO, IDD, Engineering, OPASS, TEREDD, DMPCD, RAO, AMGD, GSD/BAC and all the other Offices of NEA, which have directly or sporadically contributed to the project’s resumption.

As we are “**GOING LIVE**” today, **May 26, 2021**, we would like to call for your cooperation by taking a pro-active stance to expedite the continuing process of the NEA BIT. At NEA, we believe that having the appropriate Business Intelligence tool to arm the ECs with insights and data-rich performance trends, will set a course to sustainability and success for our partnership.

Thank you and a productive day ahead for all of us.