



# enerNEA

The Official Newsletter of the National Electrification Administration

## NEA MARKS ITS 55TH YEAR OF EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH THE COUNTRY'S 16 MILLIONTH CONSUMER CONNECTION



The National Electrification Administration (NEA) celebrated its 55th founding anniversary with an off-site switch-on ceremony for its 16 millionth consumer connection at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

Household owner Lyn-Ay Sabado received the benefits of electricity through the NEA Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) implemented by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO) in Barangay Benli, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda led the ceremony with keynote speaker Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla as well as honored guests Senator Pia Cayetano and Oriental Mindoro Governor Humerlito Dolor.

*"If I had to choose one word which aptly encompasses NEA's year so far, it would be resilience,"* Administrator Almeda said in his remarks, noting the propensity of the agency to overcome past and present challenges in the rural electrification sector. *continued on page 3*

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# NEA, ECs PARTICIPATE IN SIMULTANEOUS LINE-CLEARING & TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES



The activities were organized as part of the month-long celebration of the 55th NEA Anniversary and the 15th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM). The Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II) hosted the tree planting event at Sitio Manibukyot in Brgy. Bueno, Capas, Tarlac. According to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Capas, a total of 1,000 (500 guyabano, 500 narra) seedlings were planted by the NEA and TARELCO II personnel.

NEA Deputy Administrator for EC Management Services Atty. Omar Mayo led the activity on behalf of Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda. TARELCO II Board President Engr. Antonio David, meanwhile, spearheaded the ceremonial line clearing activity at Cafe Josefina in Capas, Tarlac.

Also present during the activities were NEA department managers, TARELCO II General Manager Engr. Jose Bognot, Jr., CENRO-Capas Officer Isagani Manalili, Capas Freedom Warriors, Matikas Eagles Club and troops from the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police.

The annual tree planting and line clearing activities were conducted in compliance with the National Greening Program and Republic Act 11361, also known as the Anti-Obstruction of Power Lines Act.

## NEA Kicks Off 55th Anniversary Celebration



NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda led the simple rites with the executives and employees of the state-owned corporation present. The ceremony was also held via Zoom, where representatives from the partner ECs of the NEA attended.

A 'Parade of Sectors' was held featuring the members of the Office of the Administrator, Electric Cooperatives Management Services, Corporate Resources and Financial Services, Legal, and Technical Services.



## NEA PAYS TRIBUTE TO LINWORKERS NATIONWIDE

The NEA paid tribute to thousands of rural electrification workers nationwide to mark the annual National Lineworkers' Appreciation Day. In a simple ceremony, the state-owned corporation honored the exceptional contributions of hardworking men and women in the rural electrification sector towards nation-building. The program was held simultaneous with similar activities hosted online by the Nueva Ecija I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO-I) and Peninsula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PENELCO).





## NEA MARKS ITS 55TH YEAR...

from page 1

*“The NEA of today prides itself as having evolved as an agency, which serves as a hub of our nation’s various policies and actions not only towards rural electrification, but energy resiliency as well,”* he added.

The event coincided with the 15th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM), the annual recognition of the government’s contributions to the rural electrification program towards economic development, especially in the countryside.

NEA and the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) also held their annual convention. The 2024 NEA-EC Convergence featured a series of rural electrification forums running under the theme “ECs, Keep the Lights On”. Guest speakers included Commissioner Alexis Lumbatan of the Energy Regulatory Commission, broadcast journalist and businessman Anthony Taberna, and Gilas Pilipinas head coach Earl Timothy ‘Tim’ Cone. Administrator Almeda also swore in the newly elected national officers of the Philippine Association of Board of Directors of Rural Electric Cooperatives (PHABDREC) led by its president Victoria Aliviado, board president of the Toledo City-based Cebu III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEBECO III).

This year’s anniversary activities reaffirm NEA’s dedication to improving the lives of Filipinos through reliable and sustainable energy. The agency’s efforts continue to play a vital role in the nation’s development, empowering communities and driving progress across the Philippines.

## Ceremonial Switch-On of the 16 Millionth Consumer Connection at Brgy. Benli



NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda led the Ceremonial Switch-On of the 16 Millionth connection, marking a significant milestone of the agency in bringing electricity to far-flung areas across the country.

The Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO) hosted the Ceremonial Switch-On of the 16 Millionth connection at Brgy. Benli covered court in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.

Lyn-Ay Sabado and her family from Sitio Silad, Brgy. Benli is the 16 millionth member-consumer-owner. She is a local government unit teacher, who was connected to the power distribution services of ORMECO through the NEA’s Sitio Electrification Program (SEP).



## 45TH PHILRECA AGMA

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda delivered his message for the 45th Annual General Membership Meeting of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (PHILRECA) at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. He encouraged electric cooperative leaders to promote a culture of service to its member-consumer-owners with honesty, integrity, dedication, and commitment.

*“Ang kailangan ng electric cooperative ay ang taong naniniwala sa adbokasiya. Ang adbokasiya na makapagbigay ng kuryente sa lahat ng kasuluk-sulukan ng bansang Pilipinas, [The electric cooperative needs people who believe in advocacy – the advocacy to provide electricity in every corner of the Philippines.]”* Almeda said.

# Transforming Electrification Management: NEA Unveils National Command Center

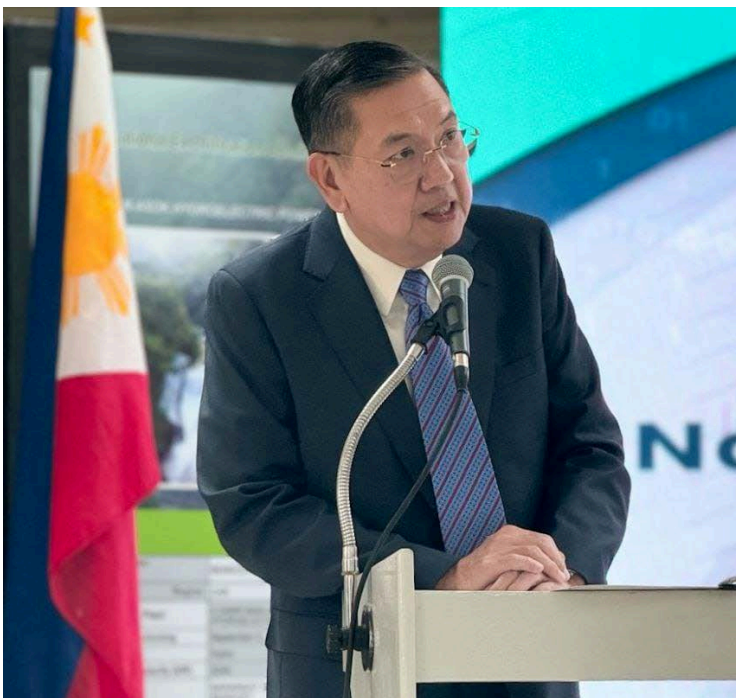
The National Electrification Administration (NEA) has launched its National Command Center (NCC), marking a significant innovation in terms of monitoring and managing the operations of the electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide.

Administrator Antonio Mariano Almada led the inauguration of this new facility located on the ground floor of the NEA building in Quezon City. The NCC is one of his flagship projects with the end goal of optimizing the technical and operational performance of ECs across the country.

*"Rural Electrification is not anymore limited to simply extending distribution lines to households, but now also includes establishing systems for resiliency and energy security,"* Administrator Almada said at the launch ceremony.

*"It has thus been our thrust to take advantage of technology to not only meet these goals, but more importantly to encourage a culture of modernization and progress to being globally competitive,"* added the NEA chief.

Project development for the NCC began in 2022 to set up the digital communications technology framework that would enable real-time monitoring and data-driven intervention mechanisms to address major electricity distribution issues on the ground. The system ensures a timelier and efficient approach for NEA and the ECs, enabling them to inspect, assess and respond to the situation quickly in cases of power outages due to operational issues or natural and man-made disasters.



The NCC collects and incorporates relevant data from the ECs' Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), among other sources of information which includes NEA's internal systems.

The collected information is processed and presented with actionable insights and analytics, allowing all concerned units to deliver incident management reports and come up with appropriate solutions. The NCC is intended to eventually support predictive analytics and AI.

The Pilot ECs who have connected their respective systems to the NCC are Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO), Cebu III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEBECO III), and Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Service Cooperative (MORESCO I), which already have existing SCADA systems.

The launch of the NCC underscores NEA's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and reliability of the ECs' power distribution services. This innovative platform is set to revolutionize how rural electrification workers manage and respond to the dynamic challenges of energy distribution.



# TOP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES RECOGNIZED AT THE 2024 NEA LUMENS AWARDS

For keeping the lights on in the countryside amid the increasing challenges of our times, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) honored multiple electric cooperatives (ECs) across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao at the 2024 Lumens Awards.

This year, the NEA presented the Best Region Award to three administrative groups namely Calabarzon, Central Visayas, and Caraga for ensuring that all their ECs sustained the delivery of top-notch power distribution services to their member-consumer-owners. The ECs in Calabarzon include First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FLECO), Batangas I and II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATELEC I and II), and Quezon I and II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (QUEZELCO I and II). Central Visayas is comprised of ECs in Negros Oriental (NORECO I and II), Cebu (CEBECO I, II and III), Bantayan and Camotes Islands also in Cebu (BANELCO and CELCO), Siquijor (PROSIELCO), and Bohol (BOHECO I and II). Caraga, which represents Mindanao, is made up of ECs in Agusan del Norte (ANEKO), Agusan del Sur (ASELCO), Surigao del Norte (SURNECO), Siargao Island (SIARELCO), Dinagat Islands (DIELCO), and Surigao del Sur (SURSECO I and II).

Of the said ECs, CEBECO I—based in Dumanjug, Cebu—took home the ‘Best Electric Cooperative Award.’ The NEA selected this power co-op for “maintaining a perfect score” and an “AAA rating” for five consecutive years.

Consequently, CEBECO I general manager Engr. Getulio Crodua earned the 2024 Lumens Award for ‘Best General Manager.’ At least 31 power-coops received the ‘Outstanding EC Awards’ and a total of 77 ECs, meanwhile, accepted the ‘Top Performing EC Awards.’



Eight ECs were also acknowledged for making significant improvements in their services including those in Ilocos Norte (INEC), Central Pangasinan (CENPELCO), Benguet (BENECO), Ifugao (IFELCO), Kalinga (KAELCO), Albay (ALECO), Misamis Occidental (MOELCI I) and Davao del Norte (NORDECO). KAELCO bagged the ‘Most Improved EC Award’ for its remarkable transformation. It was previously rated as ‘B’ but recently achieved an ‘AA’ rating based on its latest overall performance assessment.

The Pangasinan III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PANELCO III), Cagayan I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO I), and Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO III) obtained ‘Household Electrification Champion Awards’ while QUEZELCO II received the NEA Compliance Award.

Power co-ops that received major awards this year were chosen based on the latest overall performance assessment the NEA conducted. Their track record, consumer connections, and implementation of state-funded electrification programs also factored in the selection process.

*continued on the next page* ➔

## NEA Urges ECs to Provide Insurance for Critical Power Distribution Assets

As the Philippines continues to weather storms, earthquakes, and other environmental hazards, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) enjoined all electric cooperatives (ECs) to stay ready in the event of serious calamities by obtaining insurance policies for their critical assets.

In a memorandum dated 10 September 2024, the NEA through Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Engr. Ernesto Silvano, Jr. sought information from all ECs under its watch regarding insurance coverage for their technical and operational facilities.

“In the aftermath of a disaster/calamity, the cost of rehabilitation/restoration of the damaged assets can be substantial. Insurance helps ensure that assets are quickly restored or replaced, reducing downtime and maintaining operational efficiency,” Silvano wrote in the memo.

The NEA official underscored the importance of having vital equipment protected to ensure uninterrupted electricity services for the ECs’ member-consumer-owners in their respective coverage areas.

The state-owned corporation enumerated the following as critical power distribution assets: generation and sub-transmission facilities, distribution infrastructure (such as substations, feeder units, protection equipment, transformers, etc.), buildings and facilities, warehouses, vehicles, IT equipment, and related properties.

The NEA said the order is in line with the six pillars of the Resiliency Compliance Plan (RCP) based on a circular released by the Department of Energy in 2022 pertaining to “Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance.”

## NEA SETS GUIDELINES FOR EC WORKERS SEEKING ELECTIVE POSITIONS IN 2025

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) has released its guiding principles for electric cooperative (EC) officials and employees who are planning to pursue political careers in the 2025 National and Local Elections (NLE) as well as the first Bangsamoro parliamentary polls.

In a memorandum dated 19 September 2024, NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda reminded potential candidates of the rules prescribed by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) pursuant to the provisions stated under Republic Act (RA) 10531 or the NEA Reform Act of 2013.

The memo explicitly stated that all EC officials and employees, who will file their Certificate of Candidacies (COC) for the May 12, 2025 NLE and the Parliamentary Elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) shall be automatically “deemed resigned.”

Conversely, if the EC official or employee is running to represent a registered party-list group, the individual in question will not be considered on-leave or deemed resigned, provided he or she was duly nominated by the organization or the member-consumer-owners.

The guidelines were based on RA 10531 Section 26 (a), which stipulates the independence of EC Board of Directors and officers.

“To ensure the long-term business and economic viability of electric cooperatives, the management, operations, and strategic planning of electric cooperatives shall, as much as practicable, be insulated from local politics,” the law stated.

# News Around the ECs



## NEA, DOLE Collaborate for a Two-Day Capacity-Building Workshop

The NEA in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) opened its two-day capacity building workshop for the union and management representatives of participating electric cooperatives (EC).

The activity stemmed from the recent pacts signed between the NEA and DOLE on improving negotiations between the EC management and their employees towards developing more effective and mutually acceptable collective bargaining agreements, among other issues.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda and Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma were present for the workshop's opening to deliver their respective messages at the Diamond Hotel in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Also in attendance were NEA Deputy Administrators Atty. Omar Mayo (EC Management Services), Atty. Rossan Rosero-Lee (Legal Services), Atty. Vic Alvaro (Corporate Resources and Financial Services), Department Managers Atty. Alexander Paul Rivera (Institutional Development Department) and Jona Andal (Management Consultancy Services Office), MCSO Chief Aljohn Calapatia, Acting Division Manager May America, DOLE Assistant Secretary Atty. Lennard Constantine Serrano and Undersecretary Atty. Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio, Jr., among others.

The general managers, board presidents and union officials from the following ECs also attended the program: BILECO, BUSECO, CASURECO I and II, TARLECO I, DORELCO, FLECO, LEYECO II and V, NORECO I and II, MASELCO, NUVELCO, QUEZELCO I, SAMELCO II and SORECO II.

## TOP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES...

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Special awards and citations were also conferred on notable ECs that delivered advance loan amortization payment, achieved highest amortization rate, reported fully liquidated subsidy funds, made remarkable corporate and community programs, addressed the least number of consumer complaints, received ISO certifications, and recorded high attendance in their respective annual general membership assemblies.

The NEA also acknowledged all community-owned distribution utilities that have the best collection efficiency, sustained single-digit feeder losses, made great strides in adopting renewable energy initiatives, and consistently placed themselves in the 'Green' classification.

The state-owned corporation also revived the Sinag Awards to acknowledge the ECs that registered 100 percent energization, made remarkable contributions to the total electrification drive, leveled up their size classification, and exerted greater efforts to electrify unserved households in 2023.

The 2024 Lumens Awards ceremony coincided with the 2024 Awards from the Wires organized by the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), which culminated the three-day 55th Founding Anniversary celebration of the NEA and the 2024 NEA-EC Convergence.



## NEA Administrator Meets with Lanao Del Sur Rep

On a meeting with Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda discussed the status of rehabilitation programs in Marawi City. Rep. Adiong extended his assistance to facilitate electrification related projects.

Also present during the meeting were NEA Deputy Administrators Engr. Butch Silvano (Technical Services) and Atty. Omar Mayo (EC Management Services), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry BARM Regional Gov. Abdul Rashid 'Elian' Macala, Atty. Candice Manalo (Chief of Staff of Rep. Adiong), and LASURECO Project Supervisor Nollie Alamillo.



## News Around the ECs

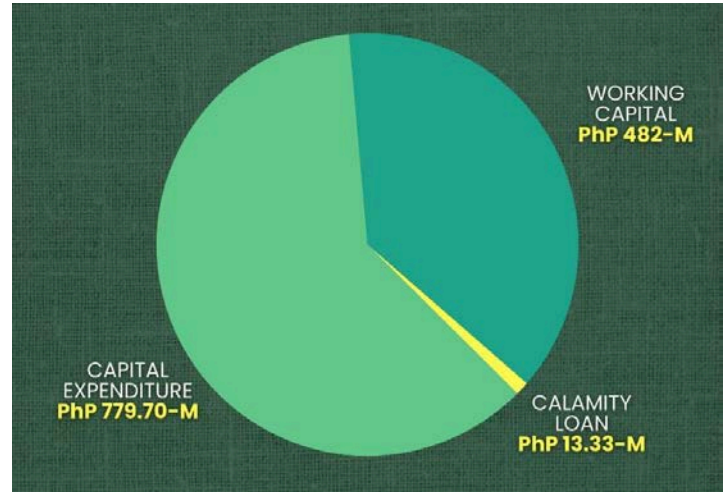
# 27 ECs ACCESS LOANS WORTH 1.28 BILLION

A total of 27 electric cooperatives (ECs) applied for state-funded loans to finance their capital expenditures (CapEx), among other projects, by the end of August 2024, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) has reported.

Latest data from the NEA Accounts Management and Guarantee Department (AMGD) showed that 22 ECs borrowed at least P780-million for their CapEx projects.

These power distribution utilities operate in the following provinces: Bataan, Bohol, Bukidnon, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Cebu, Iloilo, Leyte, Masbate, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Romblon, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Sulu, Tarlac and Zamboanga del Norte.

The NEA-AMGD also facilitated working capital loans worth P482-million distributed to at least seven ECs serving electricity consumers in Capiz, Camarines Sur, Camotes Island, Davao del Norte, Marinduque, and Negros Oriental.



Bohol I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BOHECO I) also borrowed P13.33-million as calamity loan to finance the rehabilitation of the Janopol Mini-Hydro Power Plant, which was damaged during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette in 2021.

The NEA under the incumbent administration provides financial assistance to its partner ECs through the Enhanced Lending Program. The mechanism aims to ensure their operations will continue for the benefit of their member-consumer-owners.

# NEA, DOLE Sign Memorandum of Agreement for Joint Capacity-Building Programs

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) formally signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Labor and Employment - DOLE to establish joint capacity-building programs for negotiating collective bargaining agreements (CBA) for electric cooperatives (ECs) and their employees.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almada signed the agreement with DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma at the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Quezon City. This collaboration aims to promote the welfare of EC employees without sacrificing their respective organizations' financial viability, which could affect the quality of their services to the member-consumer-owners.

*"We are taking every step that this process is not abused and that every electric cooperative employee is properly given what is legally due to them,"* Almada said in his remarks.



*"We hope to empower our employees to determine fair and just employment terms, not only for the employees but also the ECs as an institution and most importantly for the benefit of the member-consumer-owners,"* the NEA chief underscored.

Laguesma, for his part, thanked the NEA for taking the initiative. He said this is consistent with the mandate of the 1987 Constitution and the Philippine Labor Code as well as the international conventions signed by the nation to protect the rights and welfare of the workers.



# Employees Corner

## PROMOTION / HIRING

Congratulations to the following NEA employees — comprising 12 promotions and 6 new hires.

### HIRED

**AYENTO, MARCO F.**

Engineer A  
Engineering Department (ED)

**BUENAVIDES, NOVA O.**

Secretary II (A)  
Human Resources and Administration  
Division (HRAD)

**GUTIERREZ, MARK KARLO B.**

Building and Grounds Maintenance  
Head B  
Human Resources and Administration  
Division (HRAD)

**LAGMAN, IVAN PHILLIP B.**

Supervising Industrial Relations  
Management Officer B  
Human Resources and Administration  
Division (HRAD)

**LUNA, VLADIMIRA S.**

Property/Supply Officer A  
Human Resources and Administration  
Division (HRAD)

**MONES, DATCHYS M.**

Secretary II (A)  
Information Technology and  
Communication Services Department  
(ITCSD)

### PROMOTED

**ANOYA, MARCIANO C.**

MIS Development Chief B  
Information Technology and Communication  
Services Department (ITCSD)

**BERSABE, JAY-ZEL L.**

Senior Financial Planning Analyst  
Financial Services Division (FSD)

**ENCISO-KYAMKO, GWEN P.**

Department Manager A  
Office of the Deputy Administrator for Field  
Operations (ODAFO)

**GARCIA, LENARD V.**

MIS Design Specialist A  
Information Technology and  
Communication Services Department  
(ITCSD)

**HERNANDEZ, CHERRY MAE R.**

Industrial Relations Management Officer A  
Human Resources and Administration  
Division (HRAD)

**MANZANO, RAY VINCENT B.**

Principal Engineer C  
Total Electrification and Renewable  
Energy Development Department  
(TEREDD)

**PABLO, ANTHONY RANDOLPH A.**

Principal Engineer C  
Total Electrification and Renewable  
Energy Development Division (TEREDD)

**RESUENTO, JAZIEL ANN H.**

Records Officer B  
Office of the Corporate Secretary  
(OCORSEC)

**SANTOS, RACHEL V.**

Credit/Collection Chief  
Finance Services Department (FSD)

**SEBASTIAN, LYN CEL L.**

Financial Planning Analyst  
Financial Services Department (FSD)

**SICAT, FRITZIE JAYE A.**

Corporate Budget Officer A  
Financial Services Department (FSD)

**UBALDO-DEMA, CLAUDETTE G.**

Department Manager A  
Office of the Deputy Administrator for  
Field Operations (ODAFO)

## SAMAKAREN Conducts Outreach Activity to Celebrate NEA's 55th Founding Anniversary



The National Electrification Administration (NEA) through its Samahan ng mga Kawaning Makareporma ng NEA (SAMAKAREN) held an outreach activity at Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) in JP Rizal, Project 4, Quezon City.

QMMC Medical Center Chief Dr. Evelyn Victoria Reside welcomed the SAMAKAREN led by its president, Ellen Fleur Bang-ay. The NEA union members donated laryngoscope, medical equipment, and supplies to the hospital's emergency department and provided loot bags and toys to the patients of the pediatric ward.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda as well as other executives and employees of the agency pledged financial donations to support the outreach program.

The SAMAKAREN organized the activity in line with the celebration of NEA's 55th Founding Anniversary and 15th National Electrification Awareness Month (NEAM).

## NEA Joins the CSC Vibe Run



Civil servants, including employees of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), came together to foster goodwill and camaraderie, support the families of fallen servant heroes through the Pambansang Lingkod Bayani (PLBi) Program, and encourage a culture of health and wellness. The CSC Vibe Run marked the beginning of the 124th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary, honoring the dedication and commitment of our public servants as we celebrate Civil Service Month, in line with Presidential Proclamation No. 1050.

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Administrative

EnerNEA is a quarterly publication of the NEA  
Tel: (632) 8929-1909 loc. 4983 or 3153  
www.nea.gov.ph Email: csmo@nea.gov.ph  
FB: @NEAPhilippines | X (formerly Twitter): @nea\_ph