



Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION**  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Day 1 After Super Typhoon Reming , Task Force Kapatid “Balik-Ilaw” Deployed**

Naga City – Once again, the Filipino *bayanihan* spirit was demonstrated in the on-going Task Force Kapatid Balik Ilaw Project being implemented by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for the Super Typhoon Reming-affected areas in the Bicol Regions, Oriental Mindoro and Marinduque. As early as December 1, a day after “Reming” created havoc in the Bicol regions, particularly Albay, Administrator Edita S. Bueno dispatched NEA engineers to assess the extent of the damage of the electric distribution lines in the ECs’ franchise areas. Administrator Bueno then mobilized 30 NEA personnel, 373 engineers and linemen from 53 electric cooperatives (ECs) equipped with 36 boomtrucks and linetrucks to speed up the rehabilitation of power lines and restoration of electricity.

Thirty ECs from Regions I, II, CAR, III, V, VI, & VIII consisting of 221 engineers and linemen were fully deployed in Albay on December 8. Albay suffered the biggest devastation by the super typhoon. Meanwhile, 14 ECs from Regions II, III, IV, V & VII with 90 members were sent to Camarines Sur on December 8. Likewise, 9 ECs with 62 personnel started their operation on December 4 in Oriental Mindoro and Marinduque.

“Light will give the people much hope and something to look forward to amidst so much misery, thus NEA and EC immediately deployed teams to ensure power restoration in major backbone lines and densely populated areas until December 20”, Administrator said. Rehabilitation of lateral lines and service dropping is also simultaneously being done by the affected ECs. As of December 11, all 5 feeders of the Naga substation in CASURECO II have already been energized. The energization of the commercial center of and the other major service areas is the initial step to help normalize the lives of the people. Power has also been restored in Iriga City, and the towns of Polangui and Ligao in Albay and the towns of Buhi, Bato and Nabua in Camarines Sur.

With the instructions from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the early and timely restoration of electric power service, Administrator Bueno instructed the Task Force members to synchronize its schedule with TransCo’s energization of its substations. Administrator Bueno said, “power service must be restored and be readily available before Christmas comes.”

DOE Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification (PARE) Secretary Francisco G. Silva, and the combined efforts of the NEA, TransCo, and NPC are increased threefold to make this Project successful. Also, all logistical support, financial and technical assistance were provided by the various government and non-government agencies, in order to lessen and comfort the sufferings of the Filipinos and give renewed hope for a better horizon. ###