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MEDIA RELEASE

Heavy Rains Did Not Deter Task Force Kapatid Volunteers in Bicol Power Restoration

Legaspi City – Despite the heavy rains during the weekend caused by the new typhoon Seniang, Task Force Kapatid Balik Ilaw Volunteers of the National Electrification Administration [NEA] and the Electric Cooperatives [ECs] continued the rehabilitation activities of the dilapidated distribution lines of the local electric cooperatives Albay and Camarines Sur.

275 volunteers from 45 ECs around the country, equipped with heavy equipment like boom trucks and service vehicles, each assigned to the different municipalities under the franchise areas of Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. [ALECO], Camarines Sur I Electric Cooperative, Inc. [CASURECO I] Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative, Inc. [CASURECO II] and Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative, Inc. [CASURECO III] have worked alongside their local counterparts to hasten power restoration.

In Albay's District I, ALECO's Malilipot and Tiwi substations are ready to receive power from TransCo while the Tabaco substation is still undergoing repair works. Thirty-nine electric cooperatives from Region VI ECs, Iloilo I, II and III [ILECO I, II, and III], Guimaras [GUIMELCO], and Aklan [AKELCO] are working to rehabilitate the primary backbone lines.

Sevety-seven volunteers from Region II and VIII ECs are restoring the primary backbone lines of Albay's Second District where the Bitano and Washington substations are just awaiting power from TransCo. Region II ECs is composed of Cagayan I and II [CAGELCO I and CAGELCO II], Nueva Vizcaya [NUVELCO], Isabella II [ISELCO II]. Region VIII ECs completed the Legaspi-Daraga backbone lines within one and a half days only.

For District III, a total of 61 volunteers from Central Pangasinan [CENPELCO], Tarlac II [TARELCO II], Ilocos Norte [INEC], Ilocos Sur [ISECO], Victoria-Manapla-Cadiz [VRESCO], Capiz [CAPELCO], Central Negros [CENECO] and Negros Occidental [NOCECO] were assigned to the municipalities of Polangui,

Libon, Guinobatan, Pio Duran, Oas and Ligao City where 900 households from Ligao City and Polangui have been energized as of 5pm yesterday. The linemen are now working on the secondary lateral lines.

Meanwhile, in Camarines Sur, 24 volunteers from Nueva Ecija II – Area II [NEECO II-Area II], Pampanga [PRESCO], Tarlac I [TARELCO I], Abra [ABRECO], Camarines Norte [CANORECO], and Negros Oriental I [NORECO I] were assigned to work on the primary backbone lines that source power from the Pamplona 10 MVA substation under the CASURECO I franchise area. The municipalities of Camaligan and Gainza were energized yesterday at 6:20PM with 750 households as initial beneficiary of the electric service. The power is sourced out from CASURECO II.

All feeders of the Naga substation, under CASURECO II franchise area, are now energized and reconnected to a total of 17, 500 households. Feeder I of Pili substation was energized at 10:30 am yesterday with 450 households as initial beneficiaries. Volunteer ECs who worked on the primary backbone lines of CASURECO II were Batangas I [BATELEC I], Nueva Ecija I and II-Area I [NEECO I and NEECO II-Area I], and Benguet [BENECO] with a total of 28 linemen volunteers.

Under the CASURECO III coverage area, the Iriga substation was energized at 1:30 pm yesterday with initial 2, 500 households energized, including Buhi, Bato and Nabua. The Bula substation is expected to be energized on December 16. While 47 linemen worked on the coop's primary backbone lines, local linemen were rehabilitating the secondary lateral lines. Volunteers ECs from Pampanga I and II [PELCO I and PELCO II], Bohol I and II [BOHECO I and BOHECO II], Negros Oriental II [NORECO II], and also Camarines Norte [CANORECO]. The Task Force Teams were working even under severe weather condition due to typhoon Seniang, which was currently rampaging the Visayas and Bicol areas over the weekend.

The Camarines Sur IV Electric Cooperative [CASURECO IV], was also busy rehabilitating its damaged lines through local outsourced providers.

The Task Force Teams have been specifically directed by NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno to synchronize all their efforts with that of TransCo in order to readily deliver electric service to the local coops' member-consumers, once the substations have been served with power from TransCo.###