



Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION**  
Quezon City

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**NEA Supports NDCC Through Institutionalization of Task Force Kapatid**

The National Electrification Administration [NEA] joins the National Disaster Coordinating Council in the observance of the National Disaster Consciousness Month this July through the mobilization of the Task Force Kapatid Program and laying the groundwork for a Disaster Preparedness Plan for the agency and its partner electric cooperatives [ECs].

Administrator Edita S. Bueno will be among the government officials who will meet with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as she conducts a meeting tomorrow at the People's Hall of the Provincial Capitol Building in Albay to discuss on-going rehabilitation efforts of the various government agencies which participated in the past disasters in the Bicol Region.

The Task Force Kapatid Program, a brainchild of former NEA Administrator and now Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification [PARE] Francisco G. Silva, aims to strengthen the solidarity of the 119 ECs. It is a volunteer service whereby ECs group together and organize their personnel and logistics to assist other ECs needing immediate rehabilitation of distribution lines in times of calamities and disasters in order to speedily restore power service to the member-consumers. The institutionalization of the Task Force Kapatid Program which has received the support of President Arroyo and Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, with the President herself administering the oaths of office of the officers of the Task Force in a ceremony in Malacañang last April 2, 2007.

“With the Task Force Kapatid, the true meaning of cooperativism has been demonstrated and since it was launched in 2002 as the electrification sector's answer to the emerging cut-throat competition in the energy industry, it has made a mileage for NEA and the ECs thus we would like to enhance this chain of goodwill for the Filipino people,” Administrator Bueno said.

In 2006, Task Force Kapatid Power Restoration accelerated “Milenyong”, re-construction and rehabilitation of ECs distribution lines severely damaged by Typhoons “Reming” and “Senyang” in Albay, Camarines Sur, Oriental Mindoro and Marinduque, Pampanga, and Sorsogon when 73 ECs, from Luzon and Visayas, fielded 600 engineers and linemen. These super typhoons caused serious damage to all distribution systems resulting to the total blackout and heavy devastation.

A “Task Force PAGARI” was also organized and led by NEA and ECs to help the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative in the rehabilitation of distribution lines in Marawi City. It was participated in by 12 ECs in Mindanao.

To maximize the resources of Task Force Kapatid, NEA has prompted all ECs nationwide to have a Disaster Preparedness Plan to sustain readiness in case of emergencies.#