



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEA Brings Together the Pieces, Deploys Task Force Kapatid to Typhoon-Wrecked Albay and Sorsogon



L-R: NEA Board Member Fr. Jovic Lobrigo, TransCo Vice-President for Finance Lorna Dy, Congressman Joey Sarte-Salceda, Albay Governor Fernando Gonzalez, Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification Secretary Francisco G. Silva, Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal brief the teams signaling the start of NEA-ECs Task Force Kapatid Balik Ilaw sa Albay” operations at the Welcome Ceremony held at the Renaissance Convention Center, Legazpi City, Albay.

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) is on its feet again in bringing together the pieces of the wide devastations that Super Typhoon Milenyo has made in the country especially in the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon. Typhoon Milenyo has damaged 50% of the power distribution lines of Albay and Sorsogon and left these provinces in a state of catastrophe, affecting about 120,649 consumers.

Responding to the President's directions to speed up the restoration of power in said provinces, Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification (PARE) Secretary Francisco G. Silva, acting as Overall Commander, launched "**NEA-ECs Task Force Kapatid Balik Ilaw sa Albay**" Project last October 6, 2006 mobilizing NEA and the 135-member Task Force from Visayas electric cooperatives (ECs). These ECs contingents from BANELCO, BOHECO I & II, CEBECO I, II & III and NORECO I & II arrived at the Legazpi City Seaport aboard Logistical Support Transport (LST) vessel provided by the Philippine Navy. Congressman Joey Sarte-Salceda together with Albay Governor Fernando Gonzalez and the provincial board members, the league of mayors headed by the City's Mayor Noel Rosal and other local officials warmly welcomed the group.

On the other hand, neighbor EC First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FICELCO) and the province's own Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO) have started their operation in rehabilitating the backbone lines and restoring power soon after Super Typhoon Milenyo has left the country. NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno initially sent Mr. Pablo M. Pan III, Deputy Administrator for Electric Distribution Utility Services (EDUs) and Engineering Manager Lorenzo Tapel, Jr. and nine (9) engineers and staff to assess the extent of damage and map out plans that will be carried out for the project.

Later on, engineers and linemen from other electric cooperatives in Luzon such as Cagayan I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO I) & Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II), Isabela I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO I) & Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO II), Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NUVELCO), Peninsula Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PENELCO), Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II), Batangas I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATELEC I) and the privately-owned Visayan Electric Company (VECO) have likewise participated in this undertaking.

Meanwhile, Sorsogon II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SORECO II), registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) has sought the help of NEA in accelerating the rehabilitation and **restoration** of power in their coverage areas.

The President's Calamity Fund was tapped to finance **the equipment and material** requirements of the Project amounting to P 159 M.