



JANUARY-DECEMBER 2016

The LUMINA

The Official Newsletter of the Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO)



BROTHERHOOD. Members of the Task Force Kapatid from Region 8 ECs have helped BILECO fast track the completion of its reconductoring project.

What's INSIDE?

2 Sec Luistro meets with BILECO ALS enrollees



3 BOD approves new coop's vision, mission



4 General assembly decides to stick with NEA



7 BILECO implements CSR programs for 2016



BILECO implements reconductoring project

BY ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA

In response to the worsening problem on power quality and system loss which has long beleaguered the distribution system, BILECO had implemented the reconductoring project in the third quarter of 2016.

The project was the brainchild of the OIC General Manager Gerardo N. Oledan as the immediate feasible solution to address the worsening situation of BILECO's aging distribution line. Said project was in line with the Coop's mandate to provide a reliable, safe, quality and efficient electric service in its franchise area and the province of Biliran.

In an energy forum with stakeholders, Oledan recalled BILECO's capital

expenditure (CAPEX) application filed in 2011 with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). The application contains major network projects like the construction of a new sub-station, construction of a 69-kV line between Biliran and Naval and the re-configuration of feeders where a separate line will be dedicated to business establishments and public buildings in the capital town.

Oledan professed, however, that said application is still pending for approval by the Commission which left the Coop no option but avail alternative way to solve the existing problem with urgency. The decision to single out reconductoring project as the best option came after

Sec Luistro meets with BILECO ALS enrollees

BY KATHERINE S. MADRONIO

The Secretary of the Department of Education, Bro. Armin A. Luistro, visited BILECO as part of his official visit to the Division of Biliran on March 4, 2016.

Luistro, together with the officials of DepEd Biliran, met with the management, through its OIC General Manager, Engr. Gerardo N. Oledan, and the employees who have enrolled in the Department's Alternative Learning System (ALS).

ALS is a parallel learning system in the Philippines that provides a practical option to those who cannot access formal education in schools.

Oledan said that it is the desire of the management to help employees advance in their education by providing them avenue to complete their basic education the most convenient way



(5th from L-R) DepEd Secretary, Bro. Luistro, was joined in by BILECO OIC GM Oledan, SDS of DepED Biliran Division, Dr. Carmela R. Tamayo, SGOD Chief, Mrs. Lucille C. Roa, ASDS, Mrs. Lani H. Cervantes, together with the BILECO ALS enrollees.

possible. He believed that ALS is both practical and suitable to the needs of its employees and the Coop. The program formally kicked

off on January 30 with 14 employees officially enrolled.

Bro. Luistro congratulated the

Page 6 ▶▶

RENAGMEC holds competitive selection process for long-term base load demand

BY MAUREEN D. NIERRA

The 11 Electric Cooperatives (ECs) in Region 8 namely DORELCO, LEYECO II, LEYECO III, LEYECO IV, LEYECO V, SOLECO, BILECO, SAMELCO I, SAMELCO II, ESAMELCO and NORSAMELCO agreed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) backed by board resolutions of each

EC, to jointly conduct a Competitive Selection Process (CSP) for their base load power supply for 2019 to 2038.

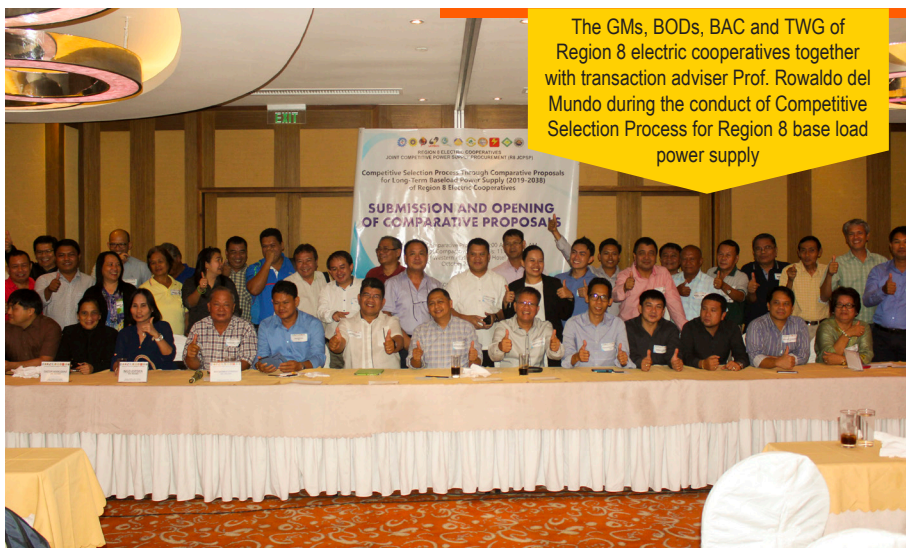
The objective of the said undertaking is to secure the supply of electricity for the captive customers and to mitigate the risks in the electricity market through bilateral power supply contracts. Likewise, it also aims to achieve least-cost supply of power

through joint power supply planning and competitive procurement process that can be justly and reasonably passed-on to the member-consumers.

In 2015, the RENAGMEC, Region 8 association of ECs, received an unsolicited proposal from GNPowder Dinginin Ltd. Co. to supply their aggregated 150 MW uncontracted demand for the contract years 2019-2038. The price of the proposal is equal to the latest lowest power rate in the Philippines achieved through a competitive bidding process but without the risks of power plant outages. In accordance with the agreed policies of Region 8 ECs for Joint Competitive Power Supply Procurement (R8 JCPSP), the RENAGMEC accepted the said proposal and declared the GenCo, through a board resolution, as original proponent of an unsolicited proposal that will be subjected to CSP through Comparative Proposals which is also known as Swiss Challenge.

The R8 JCPSP Board composed of all the Board Presidents and General Managers of the 11 Region 8 ECs created the Region 8 Bids and Awards Committee (R8 BAC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) and appointed

Page 5 ▶▶



The GMs, BODs, BAC and TWG of Region 8 electric cooperatives together with transaction adviser Prof. Rowaldo del Mundo during the conduct of Competitive Selection Process for Region 8 base load power supply

Submission and Opening of Comparative Proposals

BOD approves coop's new vision, mission

BY ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA

The Board of Directors of the Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) had approved the coop's new vision and mission statements through a Board Resolution passed during the Board meeting on April 18, 2016.

The newly crafted vision and mission was a product of the seminar-workshop on Strategy Formulation

and Execution spearheaded by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) held at Cebeco 3, Toledo City, Cebu on April 11 to 15.

With its ambitious yet inspiring vision, the long-term plan covering the years 2016 to 2030 enumerated capital expenditure projects and major innovations and programs that will usher re-engineering and reforms in its overall operation.

Vision
An electric distribution utility recognized as a hallmark of excellence by providing premium customer satisfaction by 2030

Mission
To provide reliable, safe, quality and efficient electric service for a developed and progressive Biliran Province

The projects incorporate extensive upgrading of distribution lines and facilities, acquisition and development of state-of-the-art technology and IT infrastructures and major physical development.

The Board also approved its new corporate values with acronym GoD HEART. It stands for Godliness, Discipline, Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork.



The newly crafted vision and mission were presented by Mr. Carlitus Casinillo, OIC TSD Manager, during the Strategic Formulation and Execution spearheaded by NEA at Cebeco 3.

DOLE awards BILECO 3 certificates of compliance

BY MICHAEL M. GABING

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) awarded three certificates of compliance (COCs) to BILECO during the awarding ceremony on October 30, 2015 at DOLE Training Center, Tacloban City.

Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz personally handed down the COCs to the OIC-GM, Engr. Gerardo N. Oledan, and BILECO Employees Union President, Mr. Albert B. Pitao.

BILECO was the first and only electric cooperative-awardee in the region which was conferred certificates of compliance (COC) on General Labor Standards (GLS), Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) and Labor Relations. The COC was all about achieving voluntary compliance with labor laws and standards aimed at providing conducive workplace environment promoting the overall welfare of its

employees.

Baldoz said after the awarding ceremony that the number of establishments that the regional office has assessed and awarded Certificate of Compliance (CoCs)

under the Labor Laws Compliance System (LLCS) is one concrete proof that Region 8 is on the rise.

Oledan said that the awards represent a seal of good corporate

Page 5



Secretary Baldoz (second from left) of DOLE handed down the three certificates of compliance to BILECO through Engr. Oledan and Mr. Pitao.

October 30, 2015
DOLE Training Center

General assembly decides to stick with NEA

BY ANN-MARIE B. MERACAP



The issue on conversion had finally come to a close after the general assembly favored to retain BILECO's non-stock, nonprofit status under NEA.

BILECO held its 29th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) meeting on November 26 at the Cabucgayan Gym in Magbangon, Cabucgayan.

This year's event was anchored on the theme "Kabag-uhan ug Kalambuan - sa 33 Malauman ang Katumanan," which aptly underscores the Coop's optimism towards a better change through organizational and operational reforms.

Prof. Rowaldo A. Del Mundo, UP professor and guest speaker of the event, discussed with the members the operation of an electric distribution utility, its strengths, weaknesses and scope, and reminded them on their responsibilities and obligations to the Coop as members.

Cong. Rogelio J. Espina also graced the occasion spearheading the formal switch-on and energization of the 78 sitios under NEA Sitio Electrification Program. He commended BILECO for its commitment to service through electrification to its fellow

Biliranons.

A total of 3,103 members have attended the gathering equivalent to 10.68% of the total membership.

ISSUE ON CONVERSION


One of the agenda discussed during the plenary was the conversion issue pursuant to the conversion issue pursuant to Republic Act No. 10531.

The law provides option for ECs to either remain as non-stock, non-profit under NEA, convert into a stock cooperative under CDA or convert into a stock

corporation under SEC.

Several months prior to the annual assembly, series of district meetings were conducted in all districts in order to educate the members of the advantages and disadvantages of conversion. Likewise, the Coop also sought support from the local governments, barangay officials and other stakeholders by keeping them involved and informed on the matter.

The certificate of membership decision revealed that the general assembly favored that BILECO remains status quo under NEA considering that it is the most beneficial for the Coop.

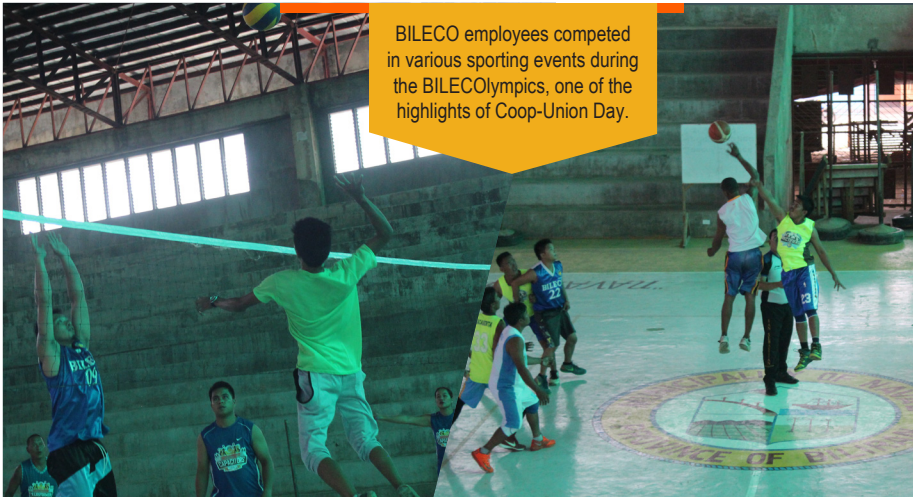
The result of the referendum will take effect for the next 10 years from the date of its adoption. 



Prof. Del Mundo discussed with the general assembly the issue on conversion and other relevant issues pertaining electric distribution operation.

BILECO celebrates Coop-Union day

BY MICHAEL M. GABING



The Board and employees of BILECO celebrated this year's Coop-Union Day on July 6 which coincided its 43rd founding anniversary since its registration in 1973.

Various activities were programmed throughout the week-long celebration. It was kicked-off with BILECOlympics, a sports competition among employees, which culminated on July 5.

The Coop also initiated a coastal cleanup in Sitio Banderahan, Caraycaray, Naval as part of its social responsibility programs. The Board and the employees, MSEAC representatives and the barangay

officials joined to show support of the undertaking.

BILECO also hosted a division-wide quiz bowl and spelling bee contests among high school students on July 5 primarily aimed to raise awareness among students on the role of electric distribution utilities in the power industry and the importance of energy conservation.



DOLE awards BILECO... from Page 3

citizenship in the realm of labor laws compliance.

"To sustain our inclusion in the roster of compliant establishments, we need to be conscious on our responsibilities to faithfully comply with labor regulations. I hope this recognition will serve as the gateway in promoting the Coop's best practices among industries," OIC-GM Oledan added.

Mr. Pitao also expressed elation on

the successful result of collaborative effort between the management and employees which primarily focused on enhancing employer-employee relationships and productivity.

"I am very delighted and proud that we have substantially complied with the requirements on labor laws. Let us remain steadfast in implementing all our programs geared towards creating conducive work atmosphere and producing competitive and productive workforce," he added.

BILECO will be exempted from

RENAGMEC holds... from Page 2

third party transaction advisors to design and execute the CSP.

To test the market whether the offered rate is the lowest, generation companies were invited to participate in the transaction through publication in newspapers of general and national circulation for two (2) consecutive weeks and through written invitation to all Generation Companies (GenCos) listed in the Department of Energy's website. Two GenCos responded the invitation and purchased the bid documents while only one of the two submitted its actual bid. Result of the Bid Opening which was held at Lex Hotel, Cebu City last October 24, 2015 revealed that, still the Original Proponent's offered rate is the lowest in the market. GNPowder Dinginin Ltd. Co. was awarded with Power Supply Agreement (PSA) equivalent to the aggregated demand of the region's ECs. Each EC signed individual but identical PSA with the winning proponent for their respective committed capacities, to wit:

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	DEMAND (MW)
DORELCO	12
LEYECO II	8
LEYECO III	3
LEYECO IV	16
LEYECO V	31
SOLECO	12
BILECO	10
SAMELCO I	12
SAMELCO II	15
ESAMELCO	15
NORSAMELCO	16
TOTAL	150

the annual joint assessment by DOLE within two years provided it will continue its collective effort in the said compliances. Further, BILECO is staunchly committed to promote industrial peace through labor standards practice.

More than 500 establishments in Region 8 were awarded COCs. Director Cayanong of DOLE-RO8 reported to the Secretary 300 more establishments will be issued CoCs before the end of the year 2015.

Rostata is new director of Naval

BY EVELYN D. OLIMBA

Engr. Reynaldo B. Rostata of the Philippine Statistics Authority was named the new Board of Director in the district of Naval during the conduct of a special district election on December 10, 2016.

The said post was vacant since 2013 after RA 10531 or the National Electrification Administration Reform Act of 2013, where qualifications and disqualifications for directorship became more 'stern', came into full force. NEA emphasized that no holdover capacity shall be allowed for directors whose term already expired which resulted to vacancies.

Rostata took his oath of office on December 22 during the year-end Board meeting.

However, in the district of Kawayan, where the regular and special elections were held alongside Naval, resulted to a failure of election due to similar predicaments on qualifications.



Proclamation of the newly elected BOD of Naval, Engr. Reynaldo B. Rostata.

A memorandum was issued by NEA in 2014 providing options for electric cooperatives with vacant BODs. The Multi-sectoral Electrification Advisory Council (MSEAC) can appoint among themselves a representative to the Board, provided however, that the nominee is qualified under the provisions of RA 10531. Also, the incumbent Board may select among themselves a caretaker to the district where the vacancy occurred.

Sec Luistro meets... from Page 2

management for the initiative and the enrollees for taking time to pursue their studies considering the demands of work and family.

The Secretary also complimented BILECO's commitment of support in the implementation of Senior High School through a Memorandum of Agreement for work immersion partnership. DepEd started the full implementation of SHS in school year 2016-2017.



BILECO implements... from Page 1

an exhaustive study on cost-benefit analysis and other technical considerations. The project was funded from a loan obtained from NEA amounting to P8 million with no rate impact on the part of the consumers.

The project which commenced on July 17, aimed to replace the existing three-decade old 2/0 ACSR cable with 336.4 ACSR in Feeder 1 and 4/0 ACSR in Feeder 2. The scope of the project covers a distance of 14 kilometers in Feeder 1 between San Roque, Biliran (Sub-station) to Atipolo, Naval and another 16 kilometers in Feeder 2 between San Roque, Biliran (Sub-station) to Bunga, Cabucgayan.

Replacement of cables required a series of outages every week for a period of five months based on the tentative work schedule by the Technical Services. With the demands to allay the inconvenience of the project, BILECO, in consultation with its stakeholders, decided to ask assistance from Region 8 ECs through a Task Force Kapatid composed of more than 100 linemen. The 12 successive Saturdays of interruption

was shortened to just three consecutive days from September 9 to 11 in Feeder 1.

Oledan expressed his gratefulness to the members of Region 8 electric cooperatives for their support and assistance in advancing and fulfilling its mission.

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT



True to its projected outcome, a historic drop of system loss was reported based on the Coop's latest Monthly Financial Statistical Report (MFSR), the lowest in the recent years.

The December 2016 data revealed a system loss with SSLA of 6.57% compared to 16.33% in July of the same year, right before the implementation of the project. System loss is one of the performance indicators under the Key Performance Standards (KPS) and the EC Categorization which determines the performance rating of an electric cooperative. The Coop's performance for the years 2014 and 2015 lagged behind due to its high losses.

Although system loss made a remarkable improvement in the last quarter, the average losses for the year 2016 is still at 13.85%, still beyond the cap of 13% set forth by the National Electrification Administration.

The management and the Board are committed to sustain the momentum by intensifying and prioritizing projects for system loss reduction for the year 2017 onwards.

BILECO implements CSR programs for 2016

BY ANN-MARIE B. MERACAP

With its commitment to exhibit a culture of giving back to the community, BILECO had continuously strengthened its corporate social responsibility programs for the year 2015 and 2016. Several programs that promote employee wellness, community welfare and image-building were implemented. The Coop also joined hands with the local government to extend the latter's role in nation building.

1 FEEDING PROGRAM



BILECO conducted three feeding activities for 2016 in identified elementary schools within its area coverage.

The program which commenced last February 19, was in consonance with the government's aim to enhance the health and education status of children.

The three recipient-schools were Patag in Culaba, Ungale II in Kawayan and Borac in Naval. The children were served nutrient-rich foods and were given school supplies.

2 TREE PLANTING



In participation to the National Greening Program, the BILECO employees, in coordination with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), have manifested once again its care for nature through its tree planting activity held on August 26 at the mountains of Brgy. San

Roque, Culaba.

Around 300 narra trees were planted by some 30 participating employees and PENRO representative at the two-hour hike planting site.

3 BRIGADA ESKWELA

In response to its commitment to the Department of Education - Division of Biliran, BILECO joined in the preparation for the opening of the Brigada Eskwela 2016 which kicked-off last May 30 at the



Biliran National Agricultural High School.

BILECO personnel performed inspection on the school's electrical connection to ensure safe and reliable supply of power during the opening of classes and at the same time undertake cleaning of classrooms and school grounds.

Dr. Luisa Bautista-Yu, Regional Director, spearheaded the launching of Brigada Eskwela in Biliran.

4 COASTAL CLEANUP

BILECO initiated a coastal cleanup at the shoreline of Sitio Banderahan in Brgy. Caraycaray, Naval last July 1, 2016 in line with its 2016 Coop-Union Day Celebration.

The activity aimed to raise awareness on the importance of a clean marine ecosystem and the proper disposal of wastes to avoid pollution which endangers marine life.



BILECO employees were joined in by MSEAC representatives of Naval and barangay officials of Caraycaray.

5 HOSTING OF DIVISION-WIDE QUIZ BOWL and SPELLING BEE

The Coop hosted a division-wide Quiz Bowl and Spelling Bee to all high schools in the province last July 5.



The contest which aimed to educate the students about power industry and the importance of energy conservation was participated by 15 high schools.

Winners received cash prizes, certificates and tokens.

6 SPONSORSHIP OF LEADERSHIP AWARD TO HIGH SCHOOLS

With its desire to take part in recognizing the contributions of young leaders of the community, BILECO sponsored a Leadership Award medal to all high school graduates in the province. The award was given during the graduation ceremony of respective schools.

7 WAIVING OF COOP FEES

In response to NEA's call to extend assistance to indigent electrification beneficiaries, BILECO has not only streamlined the connection process but also minimized the cost in the application of new connection for the SEP beneficiaries through waiving of Coop fees.

8 HANDOG PAMASKO

BILECO initiated a caroling and gift-giving to 30 less-privileged recipients in Brgy. Pili and Ilyusan in the district of Almeria on December 16. Every year the Coop shares its blessings to its member-consumers through Handog Pamasko where the recipients receive grocery packs and other items.



DID YOU Know?

Compiled by KATHERINE S. MADRONIO

ELECTRICITY travels at the speed of light - more than **186,000 miles per second!**

FLAMES CONDUCT ELECTRICITY

GEN. PEDRO G. DUMOL is dubbed as the **FATHER OF RURAL**



ELECTRIFICATION in the Philippines. Under his leadership during the Marcos years, Philippine rural electrification, with technical and financial help from the United States, became a global model.

In 1999, **40 MILLION PEOPLE** simultaneously lost electricity in the Philippines, including the presidential palace, sparking fears of a possible coup, only to find out that **THE POWER GRID WAS COMPROMISED BY THE COOLING PIPES OF ONE POWER PLANT WHICH SUCKED 50 DUMP TRUCKS' WORTH OF JELLYFISH.**

IRRESPECTIVE OF THE VOLTAGE, electric shock can be FATAL.

A typical microwave oven **CONSUMES MORE ELECTRICITY POWERING ITS DIGITAL CLOCK** than it does **heating food.**



PHILIPPINES IS LARGELY A COAL CONSUMING COUNTRY with coal having the highest contribution to the power generation mix at approximately **50%** as of January 2017.



Basically, cooked foods can be kept inside the refrigerator for about 3 or 4 days while fresh foods shouldn't be kept in the fridge for more than 1-2 days.

WATER doesn't actually **conduct electricity.** **IMPURITIES** in water is what makes it conduct electricity.



The word **"ELECTROCUTE"**

is a combination of the words

ELECTRO and **EXECUTE**, meaning you were killed by electricity. So if you don't die, you were not electrocuted, you were **SHOCKED.**

Sources: *The Sydney Morning Herald, Capelco.com, Kickassfacts Fact Encyclopedia, Alliantenergykids.com, WESM.ph, Quickfixappliances.ca*

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