



JANUARY-DECEMBER 2017

The

LUMINA

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



TEST OF STRENGTH. With impassable Caraycaray bridge, BILECO linemen physically carried this steel pole to the other end of the bridge.

What's INSIDE?

ERC approves BILECO Capex projects | [p2](#)

BILECO unveils new logo | [p2](#)

Junior high school students compete in BILECO 'COJ' | [p3](#)

BILECO sponsors school supplies | [p4](#)

NEA nods one more term for EC Board | [p6](#)

NEA eyes 100 percent sitio electrification by 2022 | [p8](#)

BILECO restores power after 'Urduja' blasts Biliran

BY ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA

BILECO had successfully achieved the 100% barangay power restoration deadline on December 24 after tropical storm Urduja blasted the province of Biliran on December 15 and 16.

TS Urduja, although not as strong as typhoon Yolanda which struck in November 2013, still wreaked havoc in the province as it brought torrential rains causing widespread flooding and landslides. The storm claimed several lives, some even ahead its landfall. It left the province in total desolation due to the vastness of its devastation, opting the local government to declare

the entire province under state of calamity.

BILECO, which also suffered losses, managed to respond quickly after the catastrophe.

GM Gerardo Oledan announced as early as December 18 on the eyed restoration timeline of the seven district towns in spite of difficulties in mobilization. Emergency and relief response were hampered by the damaged bridges and obstructed roads.

Page 5

The LUMINA EDITORIAL TEAM

ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA
Editor-in-Chief

ANN-MARIE B. MERACAP
Associate Editor

MICHAEL M. GABING
Managing Editor

MAUREEN D. NIERRA
News Editor

WARREN A. BALONDO
Photographer

Contributors
ROLAND C. CABILLAN
EVELYN D. OLIMBA
KATHERINE S. MADRONIO

GERARDO N. OLEDAN, REE
Consultant

ERC approves BILECO CAPEX projects

BY ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA

After years of lobbying and revisions, the Energy Regulatory Commission had finally approved on June 6, 2017 the implementation of BILECO's capital expenditure projects.

BILECO filed its proposed CAPEX projects covering the years 2011 to 2015 before the ERC on November 17, 2011 with the total amount of Php 113,475,197.28.

The identified and proposed fourteen (14) CAPEX projects are intended to address the distribution system's technical deficiencies and are essential to provide continuous supply, efficient, reliable and best possible quality of service to its customers.

Out of 14 proposed projects, only 12 were approved by the Commission considering that the

other 2 were already implemented during the Yolanda rehabilitation in 2013-2014.

Among the major projects approved include the construction of a 69kV sub-transmission line from Biliran to Naval and the construction of a 3.5mVA substation in Caraycaray, Naval.

In the last quarter of 2017, BILECO had fast-tracked necessary requisites and preparations as it eyes for the project implementation in 2018. Coordination

with the local government units and barangay officials were undertaken to seek support on the project especially on the right-of-way negotiation. A separate meeting with PENRO, DPWH and MPDC was also held to ascertain compliance on each agency's requisites.



GM Oledan presented before the members of SB Naval the CAPEX projects of BILECO.

BILECO holds workshop on values enhancement, workforce renewal

BY MICHAEL M. GABING

BILECO held a two-day seminar workshop on values enhancement and workforce renewal to its employees held at the VRC Resort, Talahid, Almeria with former

General Manager of Leyeco 5, Mr. Jovenal Alesna, as the resource speaker.

Anchored on the theme

Page 6



Each session and activity was an opportunity for the members of each team to brainstorm and exchange ideas so that desired result for each task will be achieved.

BILECO unveils new logo

BY EVELYN D. OLIMBA

After barely two months since holding the contest, the Board of Directors had finally approved BILECO's new logo design on October 21, 2017 during its regular Board meeting.



The new logo, designed by Engr. Jasper Bagdoc, highlights the lightning bolts which symbolize BILECO's pursuit to rural electrification within its area coverage. The seven bolts

Page 6



Member-consumers flocked at the Caibiran Auditorium for the 30th annual general meeting.

BILECO registers 7% membership attendance on its 30th AGMA

BY ANN-MARIE B. MERACAP

A total of 2,314 member-consumers, which comprised 7.44% of the total membership, have attended the 30th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) last May 28 in Caibiran district.

The guest speaker, NEA Administrator Edgardo R. Masongsong, was duly represented by Mr. Percival G. Crisostomo, the Division Manager of the Organization & Management Development Division (OMDD).

He said BILECO could expect continued support from the National Electrification Administration in all its undertakings that

Page 4 ►►

Junior high school students compete in BILECO 'Clash of Juniors'

BY MICHAEL M. GABING

Nineteen junior high schools around the province of Biliran joined and competed in the division-wide skills and academic competition dubbed "Clash of Juniors" last July 4 at the Amethyst's, Caneja Ext., Naval, Biliran.

spelling bee, quiz bowl and documentary film competition, was hosted and initiated by BILECO in recognition to the role and contribution of students, teachers and the academe in the attainment of the Coop's vision.

The contest, comprised of Naval School of Fisheries and

Cathedral School of La Naval emerged champion in this year's spelling bee and quiz bowl, respectively.

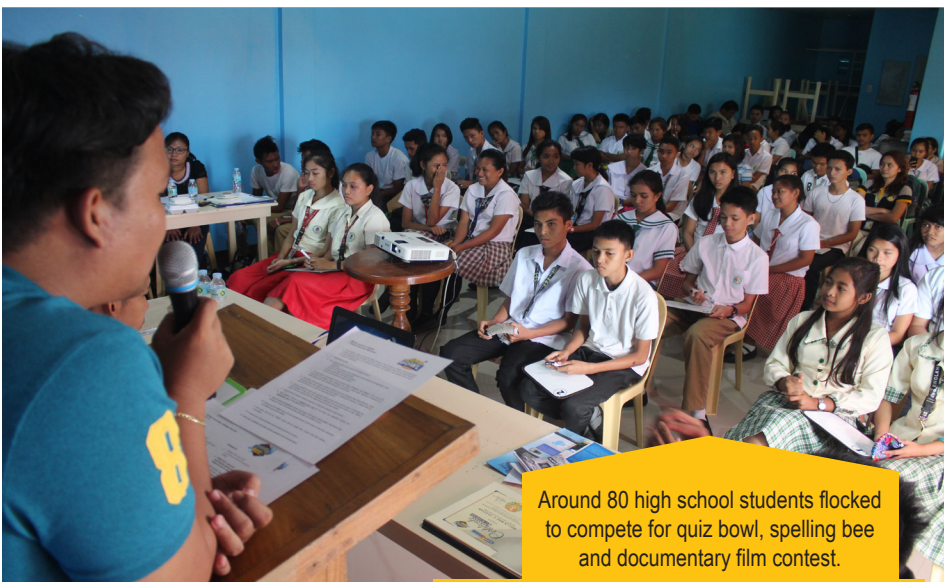
The Cabucgayan National School of Arts and Trade (CNSAT), which bagged the best documentary film award, also clinched second place in quiz bowl and third in spelling bee.

NSU-Laboratory High School managed to secure the second spot in spelling bee while Manlabang National High School settled third in quiz bowl.

Engr. Gerardo N. Oledan, BILECO General Manager, said that the hosting of said event is a venue for the students to enhance their skills and ability in the field of filmmaking and in the sphere of academic competitions.

Dr. Jose Mondido of DepEd Biliran Division appreciated the efforts of BILECO in helping shape the minds of young students.

Winners received certificates and cash prizes.



Around 80 high school students flocked to compete for quiz bowl, spelling bee and documentary film contest.

BILECO sponsors school supplies for indigent schoolchildren

BY ANN-MARIE B. MERACAP

As a strong advocate in the education of youth, BILECO partnered with the Caraycaray Central School as part of DepEd's Adopt-a-School-Program.

Under said program, BILECO was able to distribute bags and school supplies to 15 indigent schoolchildren of the said school through the Sagip Kinabukasan Project.

BILECO, represented by ISDM Allan Joseph Borrinaga, personally handed over the supplies to the

young learners from different grade levels during the opening of classes on June 5.

The school principal, Mrs. Darnelene Solon, said that the school was grateful for the generosity of their partner individuals and agencies in supporting the education of the youth.

Other sponsors were Coun. Ofelia Tabla-Espina and the Barangay Caraycaray Council led by Capt. Jeffrey N. Merez.



The schoolchildren were joined in by the sponsors in a photo op after the distribution of supplies.

Espegante, Jornales take Almeria, Biliran director seats

BY MAUREEN D. NIERRA

Mr. Alberto Espegante and Mrs. Salvacion Jornales were successfully proclaimed by the District Election Committee (DECOM) as the Board of Director in Almeria and Biliran, respectively, in the separately held district elections last March 18 and 25.

Espegante, the incumbent Director of Almeria district, expressed his willingness for re-election and eventually emerged as a lone candidate for the post. He garnered a total of 108 votes, more than the required number of votes for a lone candidate, thereby resulting in his second term as BOD

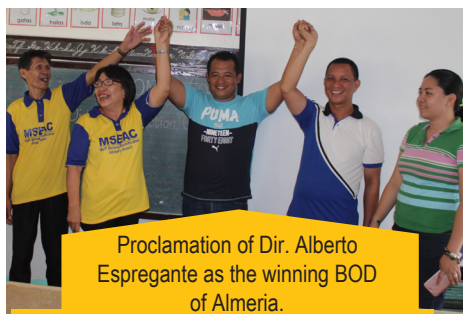


Proclamation of Salvacion Jornales as the winning BOD of Biliran.

for Almeria.

On the other hand, the three-year vacant directorship post of Biliran, appeared to have two aspiring applicants. However, after the screening, only one candidate was qualified to run for the position.

Mrs. Salvacion Jornales, who was also a former MSEAC member of the district, reaped a total of 137 votes thereby proclaiming her as the newly-elected BOD for Biliran. She also etched her name in BILECO history as the first ever lady-director since its incorporation.



Proclamation of Dir. Alberto Espegante as the winning BOD of Almeria.

BILECO registers 7%... from page 3

are designed for the best interest of the member-consumers.

One of the plenary agenda was the member-consumers' support to fast-track BILECO's ERC CAPEX application.

Likewise, the GM and the Board was joined in by Mayor Maderazo of Caibiran and other guests in the symbolic switch-on ceremony of the DOE-NIHE project implemented in 2015 which benefited around 500 households in Cabucgayan.



Mayor Eulalio Maderazo (left) received the plaque of appreciation for hosting this year's AGMA.

Region 8 ECs attend seminar on public service, regulatory framework

BY ROLAND C. CABILLAN

The Federation of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Region 8 (Frecor 8) held a two-day seminar on public service and regulatory framework of electric cooperatives and distribution utilities on February 9-10, 2017 in Catbalogan City.

The seminar was made in response to the proposition of DOE Usec Petronilo "Pete" Ilagan in a meeting with Frecor 8 on January 17 to hold a forum with the end view of professionalizing the EC Board and management and re-educating them on the fundamental regulations governing and affecting the electric cooperatives.

Usec Ilagan said that ECs are just substitute to the state in the delivery of electric service.

"ECs are regulated because we

are on public service... and public service starts in the office," he stressed.

Among the resource speakers of the seminar were officials from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and the

Chief, discussed the pertinent laws governing NEA and the ECs, the functions and rights of NEA, and the qualifications and disqualifications of the Board.

On the other hand, Regina Genosas, Senior EC Development Officer of NEA, presented the roles and functions of the Board and the General Manager.

On the part of the ERC, Leila Cirio and Glicerio Amparo, Jr., both regulation officers, expounded on the regulatory framework and policies governing power supply agreement applications and competitive selection process power procurement.



DOE Usec Ilagan (sitting in black) together with NEA and ERC personnel and the BILECO Board and management.

Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Edmundo Aguilar, NEA IRD

BILECO restores power...

from page 1

BILECO's efforts were first focused on restoring power in the backbone lines to energize towns so that vital institutions and establishments can function and respond immediately to the needs of the affected communities.

BILECO had its full swing power restoration efforts on December 18 where the first two towns of Biliran and Cabucgayan were successfully energized, only about two days after the blackout. Kawayan was the last town energized on December 21.

To meet the target, BILECO line personnel worked round the

clock on areas not accessible due to severe landslides. On December 24, the last three upland barangays in Sampao, Almeria and Villacaneja and Libtong in Naval were electrified.

Although 100% barangay power restoration was attained, there

were still remaining areas with no power, like those isolated sitios and inundated villages. Efforts are also focused now on restoring power up to household level.

BILECO had reported a total of 15 million worth of damages on its distribution lines and facilities.



"HARD TIMES DON'T CREATE HEROES. IT IS DURING THE HARD TIMES WHEN THE 'HERO' WITHIN US IS REVEALED."

#BANGONBILIRAN

NEA nods one more term for EC Board

BY ALLAN JOSEPH S. BORRINAGA

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) had recently promulgated the guidelines in allowing for another term of office for EC board of directors. This is according to the newly issued NEA memorandum no. 2017-036.

One of the main objectives of the one-term extension, the memorandum stated, was to provide opportunity for the interested director to continue his program direction through the formulation of relevant policies.

The present guidelines provides for a term of three years for an elected board of directors and entitlement to two consecutive

elections. Meaning, an EC board may serve for three consecutive terms equivalent to nine years. Under the new guidelines, an EC board who has completed three consecutive terms has the option to run for an additional term of office. However, the guidelines said, allowing for an additional term is an opportunity given to the board under exceptional circumstances.

To ensure that only those duly-elected representatives who imbibed and exercised good governance in their respective ECs shall be given opportunity, a number of stringent qualifications was prescribed to be submitted to

the screening committee together with the application to run.

Among the qualifications include the continuing qualification set forth in RA 10531 and NEA Memorandum No. 2014-019.

The applicant must also have proven track record during the three terms served and must have no pending administrative and/or criminal charges filed against him/her.

The procedures for filing application, screening of candidates and other provisions provided under Memorandum No. 2014-019 shall be applicable.

BILECO holds workshop...

from page 2

“Motivating people to care,” the seminar aimed to help participants understand the importance of personality development and how certain values create a ripple that affects oneself, the organization and the community.

The seminar also became an avenue for the participants to assess themselves as to how they behave physically, emotionally, mentally, morally and spiritually. They were made to self-reflect if their personal values are aligned with the values imbibed by the Cooperative as it lay the very foundation of the Cooperative’s success.

Engr. Gerardo N. Oledan, General Manager, said during his inspirational message, the importance of unity and cooperation among all employees in all programs of BILECO adding that

each employee’s contribution is vital on the Coop’s success.

FGM Alesna also educated the participants how to achieve financial freedom through proper financial management, savings, investments and to adopt a simple lifestyle.

At the end of the seminar, each batch say their batch pledge of commitment as a symbol of renewal, dedicating to develop relationship to self, to others, to community and to God. The copy of the pledge was furnished to the management and the Board of Directors.



BILECO unveils new logo...

from page 2

represent its seven corporate values.

The logo also depicts the map of Biliran representing its franchise area and the Biliran bridge which serves an iconic landmark of the province. The placement of ‘BILECO’ under the bridge signifies BILECO’s role in building the foundation of a developed and progressive Biliran province through the provision of a reliable and efficient electric service.

The new logo also retains its official colors blue and yellow.

A total of 20 designs were submitted throughout the contest period.

NEWS
TIDBITS

BY KATHERINE S. MADRONIO

Year 2017 was definitely a fulfilling and successful year for BILECO with so much opportunities in reaching out with the member-consumer-owners, strengthening partnerships with its stakeholders and active community involvement.

Estero Clean-up



In observance to Philippine Environment Month, BILECO conducted an estero clean-up in Sambulawan Creek, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran last June 30, 2017.

The activity, which aimed to raise awareness on the proper disposal of wastes to avoid clogging of waterways and preserve the area as habitat of some species, was likewise in compliance with the memorandum of agreement entered into by the Environment Management Bureau (EMB) and BILECO.

BILECO personnel, the barangay officials and the local residents all joined together for the said purpose.

Feeding Activity

BILECO conducted a feeding activity in Sitio Manugsok, Brgy. San Roque, Biliran last June 30, 2017 to all the children aged three and above with the assistance of its barangay officials and the local PNP.

The barangay captain of San Roque, Mr. Victor Bracamonte, was grateful to BILECO for selecting their sitio considering that there is a relatively



high incidence of malnutrition in the said area. Bracamonte also urged parents to observe balanced diet and serve children with nutritious food as their intake affects school performance.

After the feeding, the children joined and enjoyed the fun-filled parlor games where winners received tokens and school items.

Annual Tree Planting

In line with the National Greening Program, BILECO personnel, in coordination with PENRO-Biliran and CUFA, conducted a tree planting activity in Sitio Cabungasan, Brgy. Caucab, Almeria last September 14. Approximately 300 cacao seedlings were successfully planted at the site with the assistance of the members of the people's organization of Caucab.

Tree planting is an annual activity of BILECO in support to the nation's vision of a green Philippines.



MSEAC Affairs

BILECO regularly held Multi-Sectoral Electrification Advisory Council (MSEAC) meeting to discuss updates and recent developments in the BILECO operation.

Likewise, as partner entity, MSEAC members augment in the Coop's capacity

to reach out to the member-consumers especially on affairs that affect them. They also get involved in BILECO's CSR programs and activities.

MCO Organization

As part of member-consumers empowerment program mandated by the National Electrification Administration, BILECO started the organization of member-consumer-owners in the district level through its established barangay and sitio power associations.

The officers of individual power associations elect their district officers to serve as focal persons and partners in the implementation of BILECO's future programs and projects in their respective districts.

The elected officers were confirmed by the Board and subsequently furnished to NEA through a Board resolution.



Energy Summit with NGCP

BILECO successfully conducted the energy summit with the intent to inform and educate the member-consumers on how power is being delivered to BILECO and what causes major power interruptions.

The resource speakers of the said conference, Engr. Sisinio Quindao, Chief Engineer of Ormoc HVDC Converter Station and Engr. Alvin Santos, OIC Section Head of the Operations Planning, both from the NGCP, discussed about the grid and the power flow. They also answered queries from the participants especially on their future projects of NGCP to minimize power outages.

Likewise, BILECO General Manager, Engr. Gerardo Olandan, discussed among others BILECO's Capex application enumerating major projects designed to improve its distribution system.

NEA eyes 100 percent sitio electrification by 2022

The National Electrification Administration (NEA) is targeting 100 percent electrification of sitios across the country by 2022.

Speaking at the 5th Annual Philippines Power and Electricity Week held at Paranaque City on Wednesday, NEA Chief Edgardo Masongsong said that from 2011 to 2016, the agency has completed the energization of 32,441 target sitios.

Masongsong said 23,464 sitios in the country have yet to be energized through the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP), and the cost to electrify one sitio is more or less P1 million.

To enable NEA and its partner electric cooperatives to meet the target of energizing the remaining intended SEP beneficiaries, Masongsong said an estimated budget of P5 billion a year is needed.

The state agency aims to energize 2,410 sitios this year and 1,800 sitios in 2018. The funding allotted by the Department of Budget and Management for the SEP next year is only P1.8 billion, he said.

“We hope that by 2019 to 2022, we will be getting between P4.8-billion to P5.2-billion per annum so we will be able to energize all these sitios until 2022,” Masongsong said.

“By 2022,” according to the former party-list representative, “we hope that the last household will be served with electricity.”

The NEA chief was invited to speak at the 5th Annual Philippines Power and Electricity Week on the current status of the Rural Electrification Program of the Philippine government.

During the conference, Masongsong also discussed the challenges faced by the agency and the 121 electric cooperatives in the implementation of the rural electrification program, foremost of which is the devastation in the wake

of natural disasters.

He also talked about the initiatives being undertaken by the NEA to improve the financial and operational performance of the 10 electric cooperatives identified as “ailing.” He also presented the five-point electricity agenda of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Apart from Masongsong, Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, were also among the invited speakers at the conference.



NEA Admin Edgardo R. Masongsong delivered his speech during BUSECO's annual general membership assembly meeting.

Photo: NEA

Stay Connected, Get Updated!



bilecobiliran



@BILECOcom



www.bileco.net



bilecomcomcen@yahoo.com
bileco1973@gmail.com



09052559119/09486479991
(053) 500-9040



(053) 500 9744