

PHILRECA and NEA reaffirm their commitment to ensuring the reliability and affordability of electricity to more than 16 million MCOs

PHILRECA Press Release

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The Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) commends the NEA leadership for its immediate resolution of the Siquijor Power Crisis and for ensuring the affordability of electricity rates for electric cooperatives (ECs).

Today, 04 August 2025, National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda issued various statements on the current status and development of the Siquijor Power Crisis in Net25 Radio Program, entitled “Ano sa Palagay Niyo?” (A.S.P.N.).

“We were able to bring back electricity in Siquijor just this morning, at 2:00 AM. The additional gensets of Siquijor Island Power Corporation (SIPCOR) have already arrived,” Admin Almeda stated.

NEA leadership assures the member-consumer-owners (MCOs) of Siquijor that there is now enough power supply installed on the island, emphasizing that the prolonged outages of 18-20 hours is beyond the purview of the Province of Siquijor Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PROSIELCO).

“PROSIELCO has nothing to do with the problem; actually, they have been overextending their systems to the generation company, which is SIPCOR,” Almeda stated.

He stated that as early as January 2025, the NEA has been receiving reports that SIPCOR has been missing its obligations to deliver a 24-hour supply of electricity, which directly results in rotational brownouts.

This second quarter, 4 gensets from SIPCOR collapsed on 14 May 2025, then were followed by 5 gensets a week before the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of the President.

Admin Almeda also reiterated SIPCOR’s accountability for the recurring power supply shortages in Siquijor.

“I believe there is, obviously there is, there is a short delivery of what is expected from them,” he affirmed.

Likewise, PHILRECA Executive Director and General Manager Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan stated the importance of transparency and accountability in the electric power industry.

“The Association stands united with the National Electrification Administration (NEA) in ensuring that all Generation Companies strictly comply with regulatory standards and fulfill their obligations to maintain a continuous and reliable supply of electricity,” said Atty. Depay-Colingan.

Under the Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the “Electric Power Industry Reform Act” (EPIRA), Generation Companies (GenCos) like SIPCOR are mandated to ensure the reliable supply of electricity and maintain their generation facilities in accordance with industry standards, participate in maintenance scheduling in accordance with the existing laws and regulations of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

NEA Administrator also seized the opportunity to congratulate all the Warriors of Light of electric cooperatives as today is Lineworkers' Appreciate Day. He commended all the 121 electric cooperatives in the archipelago for its continued support and unwavering dedication in safeguarding the gains of rural electrification.

He mentioned that 90 out 121 electric cooperatives or a total of 74% had a lower average effective residential rates than MERALCO for the time period January 2024-June 2025. Meanwhile, for the first half of 2025, 101 out of 121 electric cooperatives or 83% had a lower average residential rate than MERALCO's PHP12.8425/kWh.

It is important to note that electric cooperatives are non-stock, non-profit. They do not possess the same economies of scale compared to other Private Distribution Utilities (PDUs) and private funding, still, they continue to provide services which are way more affordable and reflective of MCOs welfare and interest.

Photo: NET25 News and Information