

PHILRECA Expresses Full Support for New ERC Leadership; Urges Focus on EC Concerns and Consumer Welfare

July 17, 2025

QUEZON CITY – The Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA) today extended its warmest congratulations and full support to the newly appointed Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chief, Atty. Francis Saturnino Juan, and Commissioners Atty. Amante Liberato and Atty. Paris Real. The appointments, announced by Malacañang earlier today, mark a new chapter for the country's energy regulatory body.

"PHILRECA welcomes the appointments of Atty. Francis Saturnino Juan, Atty. Amante Liberato, and Atty. Paris Real to the Energy Regulatory Commission," stated Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan, PHILRECA Executive Director and General Manager. "Atty. Juan's extensive experience as former President and CEO of IEMOP and his prior tenure within the ERC provide him with invaluable institutional knowledge of the power industry's complexities. Coupled with the robust legal and administrative backgrounds of Commissioners Liberato and Real, we are confident that this new leadership will bring renewed vigor, expertise, and a balanced perspective to the Commission's vital role."

PHILRECA acknowledges the challenging landscape the new ERC leadership inherits, particularly with the prevailing high electricity rates driven by global fuel price volatility and increasing ancillary services costs.

"Our electric cooperatives are at the forefront of delivering power to more than 16 million Filipino households, especially in rural areas. The decisions made by the Commission directly impact the affordability and reliability of electricity for our member-consumer-owners," Atty. Depay-Colingan added.

PHILRECA respectfully calls on the new ERC leadership to prioritize the following critical areas that are vital for the stability and growth of electric cooperatives and the welfare of consumers:

1. **Expeditious Resolution of Over/Under Recoveries:** We urge the Commission to accelerate the resolution of pending Over and Under Recoveries given its detrimental effects to the financial and operational sustainability of electric cooperatives.
2. **Timely Action on Pending Petitions:** We appeal for the swift approval of pending applications, particularly those concerning Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) projects, Power Supply Agreements (PSAs), and Competitive Selection Process (CSP) outcomes. These approvals are fundamental for ECs to undertake critical system upgrades, secure stable and affordable power supply, expand electrification, and enhance the overall reliability and efficiency of their services. Delays in these approvals directly impede our ability to serve our member-consumer-owners effectively.
3. **Appeal to Hold in Abeyance ERC Resolution No. 13, Series of 2024:** While the "Omnibus Rules for Customer Choice Programs in the Retail Market" materializes the objectives of the Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA), this still requires thorough reconsideration with regard to the immediate impact on the operations electric cooperatives and the quality of service they provide to their member-consumer-owners.

We affirm that the sudden reduction of connected load due to the implementation of this resolution could severely impair the financial viability of electric cooperatives, due to the fact that, revenues decrease while regulatory obligations and maintenance costs remain unchanged. We recommend that

this subject be subject to further study and consultation with electric cooperatives and other affected stakeholders.

PHILRECA expresses its unwavering commitment to collaborate closely with Chairman Juan and Commissioners Liberato and Real. We believe that through continuous dialogue and a shared commitment to public service, we can collectively work towards a more stable, affordable, and reliable power sector for all Filipinos.