

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 September 2021

**BENECO MCOs, employees file complaints
against NEA Board of Administrators**

BAGUIO CITY—Member-Consumer-Owners (MCOs) of Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) filed a complaint with prayer for preventive suspension, against Department of Energy (DOE) Usec. Emmanuel P. Juaneza and National Electrification Administration (NEA) Board of Administrators (BOA) Alipio V. Badelles, Agustin L. Maddatu, and Rene M. Gonzales for violation of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, violation of Secs. 4 and 5 of R.A. No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and administrative offenses of Grave Misconduct and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service. The MCOs who filed the complaint at the Office of the Ombudsman last September 9, 2021 are Mila Salvador, Primo Viernes, Jun Delos Santos, Theodora Parungao, and Josephine Calinao. A Supplemental Complaint for Preventive Suspension will also be filed. This case stemmed from the recommendation and appointment of Atty. Anna Marie Rafael (Rafael) to the position of BENECO General Manager (GM), even though she was glaringly disqualified from occupying such post.

The MCOs claimed that the said NEA officials extended to applicant Rafael unwarranted benefits, advantage, or preference through manifest partiality, evident bad faith, or gross inexcusable negligence. The MCOs and employees association claimed that despite her failure to possess the minimum qualifications for a GM, she was given a free passage by the respondents. They also claim that Atty. Rafael does not possess at least five years of experience of proven track record in the effective management of a successful electric utility-related business enterprise and failed to obtain a favorable recommendation from the University of the Philippines College of Psychology.

The above violations are requirements of the guidelines stated in NEA Memorandum (Memo.) 2017-035 and NEA Memo No. 2018-004. In addition, these are mandatory minimum qualifications that must be possessed by any GM

applicant due to the uniquely technical nature of the functions of the EC as a utility-based power distributor.

Unduly accommodating Rafael is likewise tantamount to violating the norms of conduct of public officials pertaining to commitment to public interest, professionalism, and justness and sincerity, according to the complaint. Moreover, they contend that for ignoring communications pertinent to the GM controversy, NEA BOA is guilty of failing to act promptly on requests. The flagrant disregard of the rules constitutes Grave Misconduct and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Service.

The Beneco Labor Union (BELU), the Beneco Supervisors Association (BSA) and all the Department Managers along with the five MCOs filed their complaint against the NEA-BOA at the Office of the Ombudsman last September 9, 2021.

The filing of the complaint is a testament of the MCOs and BENECO's resolve to uphold laws and regulations and a manifestation that any encroachment constitutive of breach of such laws and regulations will be met with strong resistance. Under no circumstance will BENECO allow itself to be bullied by those in authority. ###

Attachment: First page of the complaint filed by BELU, BSA, and MCOs
against NEA Board of Administrators

OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON
CREMEB-RECORDS DIVISION
SEP 28 2021
RECEIVED
JOSELITO A. LLAGUNO

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (BENECO)
EMPLOYEES LABOR UNION (BELU)
REPRESENTED BY JEFFERD C. MONANG,
BELU PRESIDENT

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (BENECO)
SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION (BSA)
REPRESENTED BY JASON WAYET,
BSA PRESIDENT

BRENDA B. CARLING, ARTEMIO M. BACOCO,
RICARDO S. PALLOGAN, DELMAR O. CARINO,
AND RAMEL B. RIFANI

ALEJANDRO G. DELOS SANTOS, MILA K.
SALVADOR, TEODORA D. PARUNGAO,
JOSEPHINE B. CALINAO, AND PRIMO P. VIERNES

Complainants,

x-----x

-versus-

EMMANUEL P. JUANEZA
Department of Energy Undersecretary

ALIPIO V. BADELLES
AGUSTIN L. MADDATU
RENE M. GONZALES
National Electrification Administration Board
of Administrators Members

Respondents,

x-----x

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT-AFFIDAVIT with PRAYER FOR
PREVENTIVE SUSPENSION**

I, JEFFERD C. MONANG, of legal age, single, Filipino, and a resident
of MD 059, Puguias, La Trinidad, Benguet; by virtue of BENECO

[Handwritten signatures and initials]