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SOCOTECO-1 *Today*

NEWSLETTER

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46TH AGMA

This year's assembly is themed "**Beyond Power: Electric Cooperatives Empowering Communities, Changing Lives.**"



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831 / 228 9900



0998 592 4432 / 0917 709 4866

SOCOTECO-I GATHERS MCOs AND STAKEHOLDERS FOR ITS 46TH AGMA

The South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO-I) successfully held its 46th Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) on August 30, 2025. The event, themed "Beyond Power: Electric Cooperatives Empowering Communities, Changing Lives," brought together member-consumer-owners (MCOs), stakeholders, and key figures from the power industry to celebrate achievements and outline future plans.

A day of community and recognition

The assembly began with a vibrant Parade of Districts and Parade of Colors, setting a celebratory tone. Following the preliminaries, the opening remarks were then delivered by Board President Dir. Andrade F. Lagos, who formally welcomed all attendees. Notable guests were recognized, including City of Koronadal Mayor Hon. Eliordo U. Ogena, who was represented by City Administrator, Atty. Rene B. Jumilla.

Distinguished speakers delivered messages of support and congratulations. National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Mr. Antonio Mariano C. Almeda and

Deputy Administrator Atty. Omar M. Mayo, who was represented by Ms. Rina R. Dolina, Acting Division Manager of the NEA EC Training Institute, both highlighted the crucial role of electric cooperatives in national development.

A key highlight of the program was the Awarding of the Best Barangay Power Association (BAPA), which recognized BAPAs for their outstanding contributions. Messages from Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PHILRECA) General Manager Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan and various partylist representatives, including Cong. Presley C. De Jesus (Philreca Partylist) and Cong. Sergio C. Dagooc (APEC Partylist), reinforced the strong network and advocacy behind rural electrification, with many expressing support for the franchise extension of electric cooperatives like SOCOTECO-I. The cooperative's commitment to expanding access to electricity was underscored by the Highlights of the Energization of Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) and PVM-SHS, followed by a Ceremonial Switch-On that symbolized the new connections implemented across the franchise area.

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Keynote speaker and future plans

The keynote address was delivered by Hon. Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Representative of the 2nd District of the Province of South Cotabato. He reaffirmed his support for SOCOTECO-I, expressing his desire to see the cooperative "reclaim the Triple A award." He noted his long-standing commitment to rural electrification, citing his past achievements, such as allocating the budget for the electrification of Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu in 2016, a far-flung community. Looking ahead, he guaranteed to assist SOCOTECO-I in its bid to renew its franchise, which is set to expire in 2029.

The first part of the program concluded with the oath-taking of the newly elected Board Directors, introduced as "Mga Gabay ng Pailaw; Ang mga Board of Directors ng Kooperatiba". Closing remarks were delivered by Dir. Leonard A. Bonzo, Vice President of the Koronadal I B District.

The business proper

Following the first part of the program, the assembly transitioned to the business proper. The session began with a Determination of Quorum, noting a 5.11% or a total of 6, 440 registrants, and the reading of the minutes from the previous AGMA.

Key reports were presented by the Board President and the General Manager, along with the Board Treasurer, providing a comprehensive overview of the cooperative's financial and operational performance. The business session also addressed new business, focusing on the cooperative's Franchise Application and the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Projects for 2026-2028. These discussions laid the groundwork for future growth, innovation, and improved service.

The assembly not only celebrated SOCOTECO-I's achievements but also reaffirmed its dedication to bringing sustainable and reliable delivery of power to its MCOs and stakeholders. It truly embodied the theme of "Empowering Communities and Changing Lives," highlighting SOCOTECO - I's identity as a cooperative owned by its MCOs -

"SOCOTECO-I, palanggaon naton kay aton ini".





LAGOS AT OCTAVIANO, MULING NAHALAL NA MIYEMBRO NG SOCOTECO-I BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Opisyal nang iprinoklama bilang mga miyembro ng Board of Directors (BOD) ng SOCOTECO-I (South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative) sina Dir. Andrade F. Lagos sa Distrito ng Tuntungan at Dir. Harley James P. Octaviano sa Distrito ng Tboli matapos ang isinagawang eleksyon nitong Hulyo 5-6, 2025.

Ang matagumpay na pagpili sa mga bagong direktor ay bunga ng isang maayos at mapayapang eleksyon na isinagawa sa kani-kaniyang mga distrito. Malaking bahagi ng tagumpay ng District Election ang mga

dedikadong opisyal at guro mula sa Department of Education (DepEd). Sila ang katuwang ng kooperatiba sa pagpapanatili ng tapat at organisadong proseso ng eleksyon.

Sina Dir. Lagos at Dir. Octaviano ay inaasahang patuloy na magdadala ng mga bago at masiglang direksiyon sa pamamahala ng SOCOTECO-I, na naglalayong patuloy na mapabuti ang serbisyo ng kuryente sa mga miyembro-konsumidor nito.

RA 11361: ANTI OBSTRUCTION OF POWER LINES ACT

Line Clearing: Bakit kailangang putulin ang mga sangay ng puno?

Ano ang Line Clearing? Ang Line Clearing o Vegetation Management ay ang proseso ng pagputol, pagtabas, o pag-alis ng mga puno, sanga, at halaman na malapit nang dumikit o nakadikit na sa mga linya ng kuryente (power lines).

Ito ay ginagawa upang masiguro ang **KALIGTASAN NG PUBLIKO AT MAIWASAN ANG BIGLANG PAGKAWALA NG KURYENTE.**



SOCOTECO-I ACTIVELY SUPPORTS AND ENSURES UNINTERRUPTED POWER SERVICE AT THE 26TH T'NALAK FESTIVAL

SOCOTECO-I (South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative) proudly participated in the vibrant foot parade held as part of the celebration of the 26th T'nalak Festival this July 11, 2025.

The cooperative showcased its support for the unique traditions, culture, and spirit of unity among the province's celebrated tri-people, which is one of the most important aspects of the annual fiesta.

TASK FORCE T'NALAK: 24/7 ON CALL

In line with our participation in the festivities, SOCOTECO-I also deployed a dedicated Task Force T'nalak to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of power service across all festival activity areas and venues.

The linemen and technical personnel were placed on standby and alert status, ready to respond

and act on any power-related issues or incidents. The Task Force guaranteed that the power supply would remain stable, especially during periods and locations with high demand or during the peak scheduling of festival events and programs.

This initiative demonstrates SOCOTECO-I's dedication not only to providing light to homes but also to support the significant celebrations that unite the community.





SOCOTECO-I joins 2025 NEA-EC simultaneous Line Clearing and Tree Planting



SOCOTECO-I IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SIFI GREEN INITIATIVE, SECURES 120 SEEDLINGS

SOCOTECO-I and SOCOTECO-I Foundation, Inc. actively participated in a simultaneous line clearing and tree planting activity today, a nationwide effort spearheaded by the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The cooperative and the foundation, along with NEA and 120 other electric cooperatives across the country, is aligning with the government's push for unity and environmental stewardship.

In a significant boost, SOCOTECO-I and SIFI secured 120 tree seedlings from the Department of Agriculture (DA). These seedlings were planted as part of the ongoing initiative to promote a greener environment in its coverage area.

The dual-focus event addresses crucial aspects of community service: the clearing of power lines aims to ensure a more stable and reliable power supply for the cooperative's coverage area, while the extensive tree planting drive is a commitment to building a greener, more sustainable future for all members.

SOCOTECO-I and SIFI is proud to work alongside NEA to 'light up and green up' our nation.

The cooperative encourages its member-consumer-owners (MCOs) to support these efforts as they work together toward a more resilient power grid and a healthier environment.





SOCOTECO-I SUPPORTS NEA'S RUN FOR A CAUSE

SOCOTECO I joined 120 electric cooperatives across the country in the simultaneous 2025 NEA-EC Fun Run, dubbed "Let's Bolt In: NEA and ECs Run for a Cause," as part of the month-long celebration of NEA's founding anniversary on August 2, 2025.

NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano C. Almeda expressed his gratitude to all those who made the event possible—organizers, sponsors, and participants from all over the Philippines. He emphasized the significance of unity and collaboration in promoting health, community involvement, and support for those in need.

In his message, Engr. Raffee Edsel B. Epistola, General Manager, encouraged everyone to join and enjoy the run, highlighting not only its health benefits but also its meaningful purpose.

Director Leonard A. Bonzo, in his closing remarks, underscored the value of the activity in building and strengthening connections within and among employees, communities and electric cooperatives.

The fun run was held simultaneously nationwide, with partner electric cooperatives serving as co-organizers. Proceeds from the event will benefit marginalized youth in selected Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs).



NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano Almeda
2025 PHILRECA Annual General Membership Meeting
SMX Convention Center, Bacolod City

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Stakeholders and energy sectors gather for SOCOTECO-I's 3rd Power Summit

The South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative (SOCOTECO-I) successfully gathered its leaders and partners for the 3rd Power Summit on August 20, 2025, at the Viajera Hotel in the City of Koronadal. The gathering was centered on strengthening energy security through a greater focus on renewable energy.

In his opening remarks, Director Bolivar emphasized the cooperative's dual mission: "We are not only providing power, but also protecting our environment and ensuring a better tomorrow for our community." The summit's theme, "SOCOTECO-I: Reinforcing Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Community," set the tone for a series of discussions on how to build a more resilient and empowered Mindanao.

Key Highlights and Expert Presentations

Engr. Reggie O. Obregon, Senior Energy Regulation Officer from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), commended SOCOTECO-I's commitment to providing reliable and affordable power. He noted how the cooperative's efforts are being enhanced by the integration of ICT development and digital transformation programs. Obregon also shared the ERC's recent developments and key reforms aimed at improving regulatory efficiency and consumer welfare.

The summit featured presentations from energy experts. Engr. Kevin Andre B. Umipig from the Department of Energy (DOE) provided an overview of the Philippine Electric Power Industry and the specific power situation and outlook for Mindanao. Following this, Engr. Dexter Fontelar of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) spoke about renewable energy development. He reiterated that "electrification goes beyond power lines and light bulbs; it is about empowering communities, driving progress, and lighting the way towards inclusive and sustainable development."

The event also included inspiring messages from key figures in the energy sector, including APEC Party-list Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc and PHILRECA Party-list Rep. Presley De Jesus, as well as Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan of PHILRECA.

SOCOTECO I's Vision for the Future

A significant portion of the summit was dedicated to presentations from the SOCOTECO-I management and board. Engr. Raffee Edsel B. Epistola highlighted the cooperative's operational successes, while Engr. Michael N. Marcella detailed upcoming CAPEX projects. Engr. Andrade F. Lagos, Board President, provided an update on the SOCOTECO-I Franchise Application, outlining the cooperative's long-term plans.

The open forum segment allowed various line agencies and media representatives to engage directly with the presenters, clarifying topics related to renewable energy, power distribution reliability, and other cooperative services.

In his closing message, Board Vice President Leonardo Bonzo thanked all participants and guests for making the event a success, underscoring the collective effort required to achieve a brighter and better SOCOTECO-I.





ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MARIO C. MARASIGAN, CESO III
"WHEN WE ILLUMINATE A HOME, WE DO NOT JUST POWER A LIGHTBULB, WE POWER EDUCATION, HEALTH, SAFETY, AND OPPORTUNITY"

Department of Energy Hosts Information Drive on Revised IRR of the Microgrid Systems Act in Metro Manila

We proudly dedicate these awards to all our valued Member-Consumer-Owners, whose cooperation and trust are the foundation of this success.
Congratulations!!!



NEA LUMENS AWARDS

EC with Fully Liquidated Subsidy Fund

For the timely submission of complete documentary requirements in the liquidation of government subsidy funds, thereby ensuring compliance with good governance and sound fiscal management.

EC with Least Consumer Complaint

For earnestly providing the best service to the member-consumer-owners (MCOs), resulting in the least number of consumer complaints and high customer satisfaction.

Sinag Award

For enhancing access to reliable and affordable electricity for marginalized communities through the allocation of budgets for house wiring and promoting CSR programs centered on electrification.

PHILRECA AWARDS FROM THE WIRES

Silver Stellar Award

For attaining a meritorious collection efficiency despite constraints and restrictions. This achievement was reached with determination, perseverance, and diligence, and resulted in the financial stability and sustainability of the electric cooperative.

Model Member-EC Award

For fulfilling all its financial obligations and for setting payments for webinars, trainings, and other events and services of PHILRECA.

Occupational Safety and Health Excellence Award

For achieving operation and service without incurring occupational casualties and for observing and strictly implementing effective safety measures in its cooperation.

Empowering Remote Communities: A Pathway to Progress through Microgrid Systems

July 23, 2025 – The DOE's Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign on the Revised IRR of the Microgrid Systems Act is more than a policy roll-out --- it is a direct response to the everyday needs of Filipinos in remote and underserved areas. For families, this means reliable electricity that powers schools, health centers, and livelihoods. For businesses, it opens new possibilities for growth, stability, and local employment.

By simplifying the competitive selection process, enhancing private sector incentives, and prioritizing microgrid projects as nationally significant, the government is creating a more attractive environment for investments that bring power to the last mile. This ensures that even the most isolated communities are not left behind in our country's development.

As Assistant Secretary Mario C. Marasigan aptly said, "When we illuminate a home, we do not just power a lightbulb, we power education, health, safety, and opportunity." Through this IEC, the DOE is reinforcing its commitment to inclusive growth --- where access to energy becomes a catalyst for transformation in the lives of people and the vitality of local economies.

