

# TACFESCA

Tacloban Federation of Senior Citizens' Associations



National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms

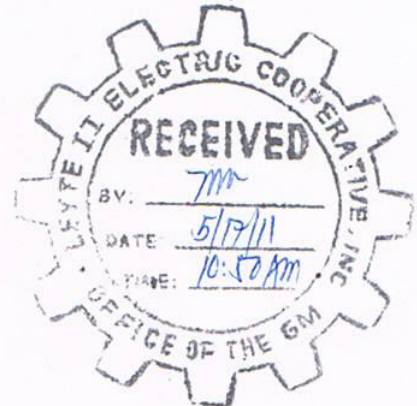
Leyeco II Chapter  
208-F Real St., Brgy. 53, Tacloban City

May 16, 2011

**Mr. ROLAND HIDALGO**

Board President

Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Leyeco II)  
Real St., Tacloban City



Dear President Hidalgo,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter/reply dated May 9, 2011 to our letter of 27 April 2011.

Our letter simply requested for photocopy of your liquidation report as your trip was official and, as we learned recently, is governed by the National Electrification Administration's (NEA) Institutional Advisory dated November 4, 2010. This advisory imposed upon the Category A+ and A electric cooperatives to provide for the travel expenses of the participant to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association of America (NRECA) annual conference in Orlando, Florida, USA, for a maximum duration of 10 days with a Board authorization and these travel expenses are as follows:

1. Economy round trip plane fare –Manila-Orlando-Manila;
2. Meals and incidental expenses not exceeding US\$60.00 per day;
3. Representation allowance of US\$150 for the entire duration;
4. Philippine Night Contribution of US\$150.00;
5. Hotel accommodations of up to US\$100.00/day; and
6. NRECA Convention Registration Fee of US\$140.00

These amounts if converted pesos at the exchange rate of US\$1 to P43.00 would amount to P130,720.00 and charged to the monthly rate payments of the member-consumers. This gives us more reason to ask for copy of your liquidation report because your attendance to the NRECA annual conference was sponsored by the Cooperative, meaning, charged to the member-consumers, like us.

Our reason was very clear and perhaps a reiteration of what we said in our letter of 27 April 2011 may help: "We would like to presume that your trip was in an official capacity with the objective of learning the latest development in distribution utility management that will enhance your capabilities as president of the board of directors in making decisions that will benefit the member-owners of LEYECO II through your newly-acquired knowledge that you have brought home with you."

We are, therefore, appalled at your very evasive reply, explaining that the Cooperative is governed by rules, and that you have an internal auditor that is tasked to monitor your compliance to the rules, and you also have an external auditor, and NEA which regularly audit the Cooperative, and all these ensure that the Cooperative comply with the rules, because these are a standard operating procedures for any business organization and LEYECO II is not exempted.

Your attempt to sweep under the rug our request with all those explanations was simply because it demonstrates your lack of knowledge that the operation of LEYECO II is imbued with public interest. The president of an electric cooperative is expected to know that the reason LEYECO II's distribution rates are regulated and subject of a public hearing is precisely because of that.

Had you been aware of this, perhaps you would have been straightforward and courteous in your May 9, 2011 reply. But in a way we are glad because your reply strongly suggests that you and the LEYECO II management are complying with the rules set by NEA.

If that is so then we are reiterating our request for photocopy of the documents supporting the expenses as enumerated under the NEA Institutional Advisory of November 4, 2011 **"On Attendance to the 2011 NRECA Annual Meeting"**. The production of the documents we are requesting will prove your attendance and would have allowed you to learn the latest developments in distribution utility management which knowledge you will be able to pass on to the officers and employees of the Cooperative and will be applied to improve the current operations of LEYECO II.

We view our request as something that will encourage you, as it expresses our interest in your attendance to the NRECA annual meeting because you are our president who we believe has in his heart the best interest of the member-consumers.

As the LEYECO II president, you must remember that you are no longer representing only the consumers of the District who elected you but you now represent all the member-consumer of LEYECO II and that include us.

Thus, it was simply lamentable that instead of simply addressing our valid requests, you resorted to questioning our authority to request for documents that will prove that indeed, you attended the March 7-11, 2011 NRECA annual conference because you paid the registration fee of US\$140.00 as provided for under the NEA Institutional Advisory. Or haven't you?

That you have not paid the US\$140.00 registration fee, meaning you didn't attend the March 7-11, 2011 NRECA annual conference, is the only reason we see why your reply was very unfriendly. That you have not stayed in Orlando, Florida, USA for the duration of the conference is another reason we see why you were very offensively defensive in your reply.

For had you paid the registration fee of US\$140.00 and stayed in a hotel in Orlando, Florida for the duration of the conference (your budget was a maximum of US\$100/day), you would have not overreacted in a very negative way in your letter/reply of May 9, 2011.

Your strong refusal only leads us to believe and we are now convinced that your trip/attendance to the 2011 NRECA annual conference was a **"junket"**, something that will not benefit the member-consumers. We hope we are wrong.

But if such is the case, we urge you to immediately return the money provided for by the Cooperative for your travel to the United States of America last March 2011 or we will be constrained to take the necessary legal and administrative action to protect the interests of the LEYECO II member-consumers.

We pray that we will hear from you soonest but in polite and courteous manner fitting of a president of the **Number One** electric cooperative in Region VIII.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**ERLINDA L. BUTALID**

President

TACFESCA, Tacloban Federation of Senior Citizens' Association

President

NASECORE Leyeco II Chapter

cc: Hon. Jose Rene D. Almendras, Secretary, Department of Energy  
Hon. Zenaida C. Ducut, ERC Chairperson  
Hon. Edita S. Bueno, NEA Administrator  
Hon. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Representative, 1st District Leyte  
Hon. Florencio G. Noel, Sectoral Representative, An Waray Party List  
Hon. Ponciano D. Payuyo, Sectoral Representative, APEC Party List  
Hon. Jericho L. Petilla, Governor, Leyte  
Hon. Alfred S. Romualdez, Mayor, Tacloban City  
Hon. Remedios L. Petilla, Mayor, Municipality of Palo  
Hon. Charita M. Chan, Mayor, Municipality of Babatngon  
Regional Trial Court Judges  
Regional Prosecutor's Office  
Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Tacloban Chapter  
Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants  
Region Eight Administrators' League (REAL)  
Rotary Club of Tacloban  
Rotary Club of San Juanico  
Rotary Club of Kandaya-Tacloban  
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