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March 29, 2011

HON. EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator
National Electrification Administration
NIA Road, Government Center
Diliman, Quezon City

4035

REGISTRY RECEIPT

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Attention: **Deputy Administrator Edgardo R. Piamonte**
Electric Distribution Utilities Services

Dear Administrator Bueno,

Greetings!

This pertains to the travel of the general managers and directors of electric cooperatives (ECs) under your office who attended the annual conference of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives of America (NRECA) early this month of March 2011.

We understand that directors and general managers of electric cooperatives attend this NRECA annual conference with NEA's blessings with the expectation that their attendance to the said conference would allow them to acquire new knowledge that will be helpful in making the operations of their respective electric cooperative efficient, if not more efficient, and that such efficiency should translate to reduced rates. In short, the cost of their travel in attending the said conference would redound to the interest of the member-consumers whose monthly rate payments provide for their travel expenses both local and abroad.

We also understand that travels like this have to be approved by EC Board of Directors and that the supporting Board Resolution have to be transmitted to NEA for its approval/confirmation, being the agency which has direct control and supervision of these ECs.

In this regard, may we be provided the list of the general managers and directors of the ECs under NEA who have attended this NRECA conference and copy of the EC's respective Board Resolution and of NEA's confirmation of the said Resolution?

Further, as proof of their attendance to the said conference, may we also request NEA to provide us photocopies of the OFFICIAL RECEIPT of their individual REGISTRATION FEE which we understand was U\$125 per participant.

Should NEA be unable to produce these documents we are requesting, we will take it to mean that the said travel was, sad to say, a "JUNKET TRIP" or a simple waste of cooperative's fund which NEA which we believe the NEA Administrator knew from the start. Under this dispensation, we believe this is not tolerated but strictly discouraged and prohibited.

If such is the case, the least that NEA can do is to immediately correct this malpractice and direct these officers to reimburse their respective electric cooperatives the amount they took for their travel expenses and issue a NEA Memorandum prohibiting such travel considered as "JUNKET TRIPS".

We look forward to your righteous response that will put a stop to electric cooperative expenses that do not redound to the interest of the member-consumers.

Thank you and may the Lord Almighty grant you the wisdom and strength to sincerely support the government's effort in leading us into the "STRAIGHT PATH".

Very truly yours,



PETE L. ILAGAN
President

Cc: Hon. Cesar Purisima, DOF Secretary
Hon. Jose Rene Almendras, DOE Secretary
Hon. Sergio Osmeña, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy
Hon. Henedina Abad, Chair, House Committee on Energy
Hon. Zenaida C. Ducut, ERC Chair
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Hon. Ponciano D. Payuyo, APEC Party List
Hon. Isidro Q. Lico, ATING KOOP
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