

The Board of Directors of the Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative (Zamcelco) in its regular meeting on Saturday passed a resolution asking the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to extend the term of Project Supervisor Jesus Castro, who was assigned by NEA to troubleshoot the problems in the electric cooperative.

A inside source confirmed that the board has recommended to NEA to extend the assignment of Castro up to December 2011.

The source said the Board discussed for more than two hours the proposed extension of Castro's assignment. Two officers of the Zamcelco labor union said they approached Zamcelco Director Noel Tarrazona before the board meeting proper to introduce a resolution calling for the extension of Castro's term as result of the system's loss reduction, zoning operations and increased collection efficiency.

Tarrazona sponsored the resolution asking NEA to extend the term of Castro until such time Zamcelco will attain the Category A+ status. From Category C in 2010, Zamcelco is now in Category B status as a result of Castro's pro active management initiatives. Category A is the highest level of categorization awarded by NEA to electric cooperatives that perform well.

NEA Representative to the board Engr. Sonny Navarro also supported Tarrazona's resolution saying that the extension should come from the board. The resolution was eventually approved by the board unanimously.

Ramos also supported the resolution saying that the initiatives of Castro proved effective especially in the zoning of operations and reformation of erring employees.

NEA has assigned Castro to trouble shoot Zamcelco's problems from January 2011 and up to June 30, 2011 only, but various sectors believe that six-month-period is too short to make the needed reforms in the electric cooperative.