

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Beng Climaco together with the Multi-sectoral Group for Better Zamcelco (MGBZ) have formally appealed to the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to create an interim board to fill up the temporary vacancy at the coop's board of directors following the members' removal from office.

The interim board is expected to be composed of representatives from the cross section of the society including the local government unit.

Climaco said the proposal was favorably accepted by NEA Administrator Edith Bueno for consideration.

The proposal came after the NEA Board of Administrators on May 25, 2011 issued a ruling concerning its moto proprio investigation of Zamcelco arising from the adverse NEA audit findings covering the period Sept. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Following due processes and exhaustive appreciation of documentary evidences, the NEA board of Administrators has found the Zamcelco management and board of directors guilty of repeated violation and non-compliance of NEA issuances and regulations and imposed the penalty of removal including forfeiture of retirement benefits of the general manager.

Aside from removal from office, the respondents are likewise perpetually disqualified from holding office in any rural electric cooperative.

The decision in NEA administrative case 02-12-10 with the Zamcelco management and Board as respondents and the Multi-sectoral group for Better Zamcelco (MGBZ) is signed by Energy Secretary and board chairman and members Jose Victor Lobrigo, Wilbert Billena, Joseph Kho Khonghun and ex-officio member and NEA administrator Edita Bueno.

Climaco, meanwhile said, per her request, the Joint Congressional Power Commission at the House of Representatives and Senate has a standing directive for NEA to formally submit the results of the investigation so it can also look into the Zamcelco issue.

The lady solon, who is a member of the Joint Congressional Power Commission, brought the Zamcelco controversy to the attention of the commission per request from the MGBZ two weeks ago. — Marvin Segura