

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pasig City

NAPOLEON M. BELLEZA, JR.
Complainant,

- versus -

ERC CASE NO. 2026-056 CC

**SOUTH COTABATO II
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
INC. (SOCOTECO II), and its
BOARD OF DIRECTORS and
OFFICERS, namely: ENGR.
ANECITO G. BACULNA, JR., in
his capacity as PRESIDENT;
PATRICK S. YAP, in his
capacity as VICE -PRESIDENT;
JESSIE F. ALABAN, in her
capacity as SECRETARY;
LEYNE S. ALFEREZ, in her
capacity as TREASURER;
PETER JAYSON A. ACHARON,
MUSA N. MANG, MAE V.
MENDOZA, ELENITO C.
SENIT, MBA, EDWIN R. SIM,
EVELYN VILLAREAL, in their
capacities as members of the
Board; GERONIMO D.
DESESTO in his capacity as
GENERAL MANAGER and EX-
OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER;
and SARANGANI ENERGY
CORPORATION (SEC) and
SIGUIL HYDRO POWER
CORPORATION (SHPC),**

Respondents.

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Promulgated:
July 20, 2026

ORDER

During the initial hearing on 24 June 2026, the following entered their appearances: Atty. Elmira Paug and Atty. Nova

Marasigan for the Complainant; Atty. Joshua James Reyes and Atty. Anna Evangelista-Dizon for Respondents South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II) and its Board of Directors and Officers; and Atty. Barzillai Josh Banogon and Atty. Uriel Navata for Respondents Sarangani Energy Corporation (SEC) and Siguil Hydro Power Corporation (SHPC).

The Commission then noted the following:

- (a) *Entry of Appearance with Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer/Comment* filed by Diccion Law Firm for the Respondent SOCOTECO II, and its Board of Directors and Officers on 10 June 2026; and
- (b) *Entry of Appearance with Motion for Extension of Time to File Answer/Comment* filed by Palarca & Baluyut Law Offices for the Respondent SEC and SHPC on 10 June 2026; and
- (c) *Motion to Dismiss* filed by Respondent SEC and SHPC on 19 June 2026.

Upon inquiry, the Complainant confirmed receipt of the said motions and manifested his intention to file a comment/opposition thereto.

Pursuant to Rule 20, Section 3(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (RRPP), the Commission explored the possibility of an amicable settlement. Respondent SOCOTECO II manifested its willingness to explore settlement, while Respondents SEC and SHPC, as well as the Complainant, manifested that they were not amenable thereto. The Commission noted the parties' respective manifestations.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, the Respondent SOCOTECO II and its Board of Directors and Officers are hereby **DIRECTED** to file their *Answer* **within a non-extendible period of fifteen (15) days from the 24 June 2026 hearing**, copy furnished the Complainant and the other Respondents SEC and SHPC.

FURTHER, the Complainant is hereby **DIRECTED** to file his comment or opposition to the *Motion to Dismiss* filed by SEC and SHPC **within ten (10) days from receipt** of this *Order*.

RELATIVE THERETO, the Commission hereby sets another hearing on **06 August 2026 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)**, through the MS Teams online platform, which can be accessed through the following link:

[BELLEZA v. SOCOTECO II, SEC, SHPC \(ERC Case No. 2026-056 CC\)](#)

Meeting ID: 445 977 601 265 55
Passcode: 2LR3bJ24

The Commission reminds the parties that, despite the pendency of the complaint, they are still encouraged to exert earnest efforts towards an amicable settlement. Should the parties arrive at an amicable settlement before the aforesaid scheduled hearing, they are hereby **DIRECTED** to execute a *Compromise Agreement*, in accordance with the template prescribed under the Commission's Resolution No. 9, series of 2023¹, and file a joint motion for the approval thereof.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMISSION:



ATTY. LEILA GRACE A. SAN PEDRO
Acting Director, Consumer Affairs Service



CAS: RJM/MDDN/ABC

¹ A Resolution Prescribing a Template for Compromise Agreement Between or Among Parties for the Settlement of Consumer Complaints, and the Approving Authorities for Such Cases of Compromise Agreements.

ERC CASE NO. 2026-056 CC
ORDER
PAGE 4 OF 4

Copy Furnished:

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