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October is Action Energy Month

By Mark Rabago
Associate Editor

With various literature about energy efficiency, pens made of recycled materials, and even a small handheld fan that doubles as a flashlight strewn across the table at the Governor's Office conference room, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider proclaimed October as Action Energy Month last Sept. 31.

Vincent Attao, acting Energy Division director, said the promotional materials they brought to the proclamation signing are the same stuff they will be distributing to the community throughout the month of October to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the CNMI.

Inos said that peak demand on electricity usage throughout the Commonwealth has gone down, helped along by the efforts of the Energy Division.

"While the high cost of power has been the culprit, the Energy Division's outreach programs that gives folks alternatives by using more efficient light bulbs and appliances like refrigerators and air-condition have also contributed to the lower usage," he said.

To this end, the governor thanked Uncle Sam as well as staff of the Energy Division for working hard to pursue reduced energy consumption.

Inos and Hofschneider also proclaimed Oct. 31 as Weatherization Day.

The proclamation said the CNMI WAP program in all has spent \$989,743 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from 2009 to 2013, and \$339,469 in its Annual Formula Grant Funds, which translates to an average expenditure of \$1,300 per home to improve the wellbeing of hundreds of CNMI residents.

"This program not only saves energy through advanced technologies to improve the energy affordability for low-income families, but also improves the health and safety of families by identifying carbon monoxide hazards, poor indoor air quality, mold, and other health threats," it read.

The CNMI WAP has assisted 670 qualified low-income families by providing energy conservation education information, replacing inefficient refrigerator, window air condition units, and light bulbs, installation of smoke detectors, and insulation of room fenestration, window gaps, and cracks.