## Replacement for **Bohol's collapsed** Clarin bridge opened to two-way traffic next month

A BRIDGE constructed as a replacement for the collapsed Clarin bridge in Loay, Bohol will be opened to twoway traffic next month, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Thursday.

The department hopes to finish the paving of access ramps for the new bridge by June 7, it said in a statement.

"The construction of approach road for the new Clarin Bridge has reached the final stage with ongoing laying of bituminous asphalt concrete finish after undergoing full compaction of base materials," it

On April 27, four people were killed, including an Austrian tourist, after the

Portion of Pandi - Angat Road from Pandi - Balagtas Road in Bgy. Poblacion, Pandi

to and including Pandi Residences Subd., Padre Pio Subd., Pandi Village 2, Sunny Homes

Villa Elise Subd., Sitio Silangan, Saint Nazarene Subd., Amparo Subd., Bernardo Subd., Pandi

Village I, Sitio Gulod, Sitio Gubat, Sitio Bana and Sitio Balanga; Concepcion, Contreras, Grace

Mulawin, Jose Bernardo, Pasong Kalabaw, R. Santos, E. Rodriguez, F. Cruz, Fr. Nicanor Domingo, Gervacio Mendoza, Kabesang Pinong and Manuel Santos Sts. in Bgys. Bagong Barrio,

Cacarong Bata, Cupang, Mapulang Lupa, Masuso, Pinagkuartelan, Poblacion, Siling Bata and

REASON: Line reconstruction work and replacement of pole along Santa Maria - Pandi

**MONDAY TO TUESDAY, MAY 30 - 31, 2022** 

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 05/30/22) AND 5:00AM (TUE., 05/31/22) - PORTION OF

including Rambutan, Suha, Kalamansi, Kasoy, Dayap, Magnolia, Kamatsile, Lanzones, Siniguelas, Bayabas, Avocado, Bignay, Atis, Jasmin, Mansanas, Sampaguita, Aratilez, Ilang-Ilang

and Cadena De Amor Sts.; Deato Subd., Balangkas Bukid HOA and Sitio Bilog; and San Diego Parochial School in Bgy. Balangkas in Valenzuela City.

Portion of San Bartolome Road from near Paliwas Road in Bgy. San Pascual to and including King Villa Homes in Bgy. Lawa in Obando, Bulacan.

REASON: Line reconductoring work and upgrading of facilities along Pascual Deato St.

BETWEEN 12:30AM AND 1:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM - PORTION

Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from near McDonald's – Micara Tanza to and including Dr. Solis St.; Casa Amaya Subd., F. E. De Castro Subd., Eastern Holding Compound, Pabahay sa

Amaya Subd., PLDT Subd., Villa Lota Subd., Vista Acacia Homes Subd., Amaya Breeze Subd.

Hidden Brooke Subd., Winter Breeze Subd., Pacific Ace Village, Concepcion Solis Fojas Subd.

Del-Vic John Subd., Cabba Subd., Remillanoville Subd., Chateau Ville 11 Subd., Sta. Cecilia II

Subd., The Istana Tanza Subd. and Sanmara Subd.; Our Lady of the Holy Rosary School, St Joseph College, Deo Roma College of Tanza, Coca-Cola Bottlers – Tanza Sales Office, Tanza Water District, The International School for Children, Emilu's Mart, Shin Yee Metal Corp. and

Mechatrends Contractor's Corp. in Bgys. Amaya 1 - 7, Daang Amaya 1 & 2, Mulawin, Sanja

Micara Tanza; South Crest Hills Subd., Brisas De Tanza Subd., Deca Homes Tanza, Glowingfield

Village, Greenville Homes, Micara - Estates Tanza Subd., Pineview Subd. and Springfield View Subd.; Delimondo Food Specialties Inc. and Micara Plaza in Bgys. Calibuyo, Halayhay and

REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconductoring work along Antero Soriano

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 1:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. CRUZ 322WF

to and including Bgys. San Miguel, Pansol, Mojon, Masico and Bukal in Pila.

Portion Nagcarlan – Calumpang Road from Pila – Calumpang Road to and including

REASON: Replacement of poles and installation of facilities along Pila - Calumpang

**TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2022** 

Subd., Caloocan Metrocor Homes, Doña Helen Subd., North Matrix Ville Subd., Bellefonte Subd.

BETWEEN 10:00PM (TUE., 05/31/22) AND 5:00AM (WED., 06/01/22) - PORTION OF

Portion of Camarin Road from Purple Frost Tube Ice Inc. to Zabarte Road including Almai

Portion of Antero Soriano Highway from near Bernaville Subd. to near McDonald's

Portion of Sahud Ulan Road from Antero Soriano Highway to and including Wellington

Portion of Pila - Calumpang Road from near Victoria - Pila - Sta. Cruz National Highway

BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TMC-II 426WA

Residences Subd. and Suntrust Ecotown Subd. in Bgys. Tres Cruses and Sahud - Ula

Highway in Bgys. Calibuyo, Sahud - Ulan and Halayhay in Tanza, Cavite

Bgys. Dagatan, Daniw, Dita, Banca-Banca and Sibulan in Nagcarlan and Liliw

LAGUNA (PILA; NAGCARLAN; AND LILIW)

Portion of Kabesang Imo St. from Pascual Deato St. in Bgy. Pariancillo Villa to and

ing Matanda in Pandi; Mulawin and Narra Sts. in Bgy. Malawak, Bustos

**BULACAN (OBANDO); AND VALENZUELA CITY** 

(BALANGKAS AND PARIANCILLO VILLA)

Road in Bgy. Manggahan, Santa Maria, Bulacan.

CIRCUIT VEINTE REALES 426VNR

in Bgy. Pariancillo Villa, Valenzuela City.

**CAVITE (TANZA)** 

OF CIRCUITS TMC-II 426WA

Mayor and Julugan 1, 6 & 8.

Park, Hulo, Jacinto, Masayahin, Mitay, Palanas, Santisima, Sayo, Sto. Rosario, Bangko, Pasong

old Clarin Bridge, also referred to as Loay Bridge, collapsed.

The old bridge, built in the 1970s, was reinforced after sustaining damage in the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Bohol in 2013. Construction of the new bridge on a nearby site spanning the Loboc river started

The new bridge is currently open for one-lane traffic, light vehicles only, with vehicles directed by flagmen and traffic aides.

"The Clarin Bridge Replacement Project costing P462 million is part of the Bohol Circumferential Road Contract Package 3 under the DPWH Road Upgrading and Preservation Projects

funded through a Japan International Cooperation Agency loan agreement," it added.

"Bohol's Loboc River is a major tourism destination and also offers alternate route to the province's Billar manmade forest as well as conservation areas for tarsiers and butterflies," the department said. — **Arjay L. Balinbin** 



The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

#### **CAVITE (IMUS CITY AND DASMARIÑAS CITY)**

BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK, 35WK AND 36WK

Portion of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Paredes Primary Care in Bgy. Bayan Luma IV, Imus City to near Jose Abad Santos Ave. (Salitran – Salawag Road) in Bgy. Salitran I, Dasmariñas City including Hausland Subd., Plaridel III Subd., Rita Sanchez Compound, Villa Celina Subd., Villa Leticia Subd., Villa Nicasia I Subd., New Imus Village, Palla Athena Classique Subd., Bayanihan Homes, Noble Hills Subd., Landtrust Homes, Santiago Subd., Villa Elisa Subd., Richlane Subd. and Dara Subd. in Bgys. Anabu I – A to D, Anabu II – A to F, Bayan Luma 2, 7 & 8, Buhay Na Tubig and Tanzang Luma V & VI in Imus City.

Portion of Palanas Road from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway to Malagasang Road including Sarreal Subd.; Bgys. Bayan Luma 8 & 9 and Bucandala I, II & III in Imus City.

Portion of Malagasang Road from Palanas Road to near Granville Homes Subd. including Grandiose South Subd., Hotelier's II Village, Montera Homes Subd., Sunnydale the Garden Ville Subd., Celina Plains Imus Phases 2A & 3, Dexterville Legacy Subd., Woodland Subd. 1-B, Woodlane Subd., Jade Residences Phase A, Savanna Ville Subd., Mallari Subd., Manela Subd., Silver Towne III & IV Subds., Green Estate Subd. Phase 3 and Jade Residences Phase A; Bucandala I & V, Malagasang I-A, I-B, I-C, I-D, I-E, I-F & I-G and Malagasang II-A &

REASON: Upgrading of facilities and testing work inside Meralco - Imus substation

#### MANILA (TONDO; BINONDO; AND STA. CRUZ)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00PM AND 4:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TUTUBAN 52VT AND 434VT

Portion of Recto Ave. from Sanchez St. in Tondo to near Alonzo St. including McDonald's, Japan Parts Trading Center Arrangue Mall and Maynilad Sta. Cruz Lifting Station in Sta. Cruz. Portion of Aguilar St. from Meiling Tower Condominium and Gocheco Building in Tondo to and including Skyrise Condominium in Binondo.

Portion of Benavidez St. from Luzon St. to Recto Ave. including Jadewell Realty Development Parking in Tondo.

Portion of Alonzo St. from Recto Ave. to Zacateros St. in Sta. Cruz Portion of Soler St. from Metrobank Arrangue Center to Rizal Ave. including National

Bookstore (First Store) and Cosmos Food Gallery in Sta. Cruz. Portion of San Bernardo St. from Recto Ave. to Soler St. in Sta. Cruz Portion of Tomas Mapua St. from Recto Ave. to and including Tambacan St.; Premier

Theater, Lido de Paris Hotel Ugic Tower and Manila Patriotic School in Sta. Cruz. Portion of F. Torres St. from Recto Ave. to near Gonzalo Puyat St. including Katubusan

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 4:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TUTUBAN 52VT

Portion of Narra St. from Padre Algue St. to Recto Ave. in Tondo Portion of Abad Santos Ave. from Hi-Q Commercial Inc. to Recto Ave. in Tondo

Portion of Soler St. from Reina Regente St. to and including Alvarado St.; Golden Fortune Seafood Restaurant and Christian Gospel Center in Binondo.

Portion of Masangkay and Benavidez Sts. from Recto Ave. to Salazar St. including

Liberty Hall Physical Therapy Clinic (Health Hub Binondo and RCBC in Binondo Portion of Sabino Padilla St. from Soler St. to Ongpin St. including Lee Tower in

Portion of Salazar St. from Masangkay St. to Ongpin St. including First Hotel in

Portion of Juan Luna St. from Reina Regente St. to Ongpin St. in Binondo

Portion of Ongpin St. from Juan Luna St. to Sabino Padilla St. including Mandarin Square and President Grand Palace in Binondo. Portion of Quintin Paredes Road from Ongpin St. to and including Plaza Cervantes

Dasmariñas and Carvajal Sts. in Binondo. REASON: Replacement of poles, line reconductoring work and installation of additional

lightning protection devices along Soler, Masangkay, Benavidez, Sabino Padilla and Ongpin Sts. in Binondo and Sta. Cruz in Manila.

## LAGUNA (BIÑAN CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. ROSA II 432WL

Portion of East Science Ave. from North Main Ave. to and including Laguna METTS Corp., TDK Electronics Phils. Corp., Surtec Phils. Inc. and Sidel Sales & Conveyor Industries in Laguna Technopark Phase 3, Bgy. Malamig.

REASON: Reconductoring of primary lines along East Science Ave. in Laguna Technopark Phase 3, Bgy. Malamig, Biñan City, Laguna

## PASIG CITY (PINAGBUHATAN) AND RIZAL PROVINCE (TAYTAY)

BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 3:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 49ZL Portion of A. Sandoval Ave. from Camachile St. to and including Eusebio Ave. in Bgy.

Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. Portion of Eusebio Ave. from A. Sandoval Ave. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City to and

including Lupang Arinda, Bgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal Province; Esguerra Compound, Green Valley Hilltop Subd., Monte Villas Subd., Nagpayong Subd., Pasig Borderline, Rodman Ville and Villa Grandimar Subd. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

REASON: Line reconductoring work along A. Sandoval Ave. and Eusebio Ave. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City; and Bgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal Province.

## **SUNDAY TO MONDAY, MAY 29 - 30, 2022**

## QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SUN., 05/29/22) AND 4:00AM (MON., 05/30/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS LUCENA 422LCN AND 424LCN

Portion of Quezon Ave. from BDO - Lucena Gulang-Gulang Branch to and including P. Gomez, Barcelona, Trinidad, Hermana Fausta, Granja, Daleon, Osmeňa, Enriquez, Merchan and Santolan Sts.; Landbank, Quezon Medical Center, Sacred Heart College (Lucena City) and Mormon Church; Zaballero Subd. and Mt. Carmel Subd. in Bgys. Gulang-Gulang and Lucena

Portion of P. Gomez St. from Allarey St. to and including St. Peter Chapels and House of Halina in Lucena City proper.

REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconductoring work along Quezon Ave. in Bgys. Gulang-Gulang and Lucena City proper in Lucena City, Quezon Province

## **MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022**

## **BULACAN (SANTA MARIA; PANDI; AND BUSTOS)**

BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 1:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 435YU

Portion of Santa Maria - Pandi Road from Santiago St. to near Talipapa Ng Barangay including Amaia Scapes Bulacan Subd., Glendale Residences Subd., Santiago Subd., Rafael Compound, Sitio Pag-Asa, Sonoma Residences Subd., Sonoma Residences Ext. Subd. and Sta. Cruz Village: Kalve Onse, Brigino, Ipil, Pino, Sagad, Bukid, Pag-Asa, Centro, Gulod, Housing Project, Kalapatihan, Maligaya, Matimyas and Sulucan Sts. in Bgys. Manggahan, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz in Santa Maria.

BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 6:00AM - PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 435YU

Portion of Santa Maria - Pandi Road from near Talipapa Ng Barangay in Bgy. Manggahan, Santa Maria to and including Dominique Subd. and Villa Tierra Subd. in Bgy. San Roque, Pandi; and Gulod Subd. in Bgy. Manggahan, Santa Maria.

#### Register now to receive FREE texts about our Power Maintenance Schedules!

Text MERALCO <space> ON <space> your Service ID Number (which can be found in your bill) to:

For more updates, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

facebook For emergencies, call: 16211

/meralco



@meralco

Thunderbird Subd., Estrella Homes and Metrocor Homes, Zabarte Town Center, Meralco - Camarin Business Center, PLDT Bldg., Camarin Ice Marketing Company, Innov Block Development Corp. Island Biscuit Inc., Mystical Rose School Of Caloocan Inc. and Savemore Market Portion of Zabarte Road from Camarin Road to near Motortrade Motorcycle Dealer REASON: Installation of poles and line reconductoring work along Camarin Road in **CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS CITY)** 

CIRCUIT CAMARIN 432TC

Road in Bgy. Pansol, Pila, Laguna.

CALOOCAN CITY (CAMARIN)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 05/31/22) AND 12:15AM (WED., 06/01/22) THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 6:00AM (WED., 06/01/22) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT FCIE 60WB – PHCI – FCIE 65WB - LANCASTER 61LAN

San Miguel - Purefoods Hormel Compound along Governor's Drive in Sitio De Fuego. REASON: Relocation of poles affected by Cavite - Laguna Expressway (CALAX)

#### construction project along FCIE 60WB - PHCI - Lancaster 61LAN 115kV transmission lines. **THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, JUNE 2 - 3, 2022**

## **CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS CITY)**

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 06/02/22) AND 12:15AM (FRI., 06/03/22) THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 06/03/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT FCIE 60WB - PHCI - FCIE 65WB - LANCASTER 61LAN

San Miguel - Purefoods Hormel Compound along Governor's Drive in Sitio De Fuego.

REASON: Relocation of poles affected by Cavite - Laguna Expressway (CALAX) nstruction project along FCIE 60WB - PHCI - Lancaster 61LAN 115kV transmission

#### FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, JUNE 3 – 4, 2022 LAGUNA (LOS BAÑOS)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (FRI., 06/03/22) AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM (SAT., 06/04/22) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MAKBAN 54MB

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Compound in Los Baños Town Proper BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 06/03/22) AND 3:00PM (SAT., 06/04/22) - THE WHOLE OF

CIRCUIT NGCP - LOS BAÑOS 21LB Forest Products Research & Development Institute (FPRDI), Ecosystems Research and

pment Bureau (ERDB) and IRRI Staff Housing in University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Compound in Los Baños Town Proper

1. Maintenance and testing work inside NGCP - Los Baños substation. 2. Installation of pole and line reconstruction works in Bgy. Batong Malake, Los Baños, Laguna.

# **Marcos signals** go-slow stance on joining RCEP

PRESIDENT-ELECT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. will review the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to determine whether the agriculture sector is adequately protected.

Mr. Marcos said in a news conference on Thursday that he wants to ensure that the agriculture industry is not unduly disadvantaged by the trade deal.

"Sa aking pananaw (in my view), let's have another look at it because the RCEP is a very fine thing. Ako talaga ang great proponent/believer in trade. (I am a great believer in trade) Walang yumaman na bansa na hindi maganda ang kanilang trade, (No country grew rich without taking care of trade)," Mr. Marcos said.

"Let's have a look at it again and make sure *na hindi naman* malulugi ang ating agriculture sector (that the agriculture sector does not get put out of business). Pagka na-ratify na natin 'yan, dapat handa na 'yung system natin na makipag-compete dahil kung hindi makapag-compete, masasapawan sila. Mawawala 'yung ating local and panay nalang ang import natin (Once it is ratified, we must make ready measures that will help the industry compete, because if we don't, our farmers will be overwhelmed. Our local goods will disappear and all we will do is import) and we don't want that," he added.

RCEP started taking effect on Jan. 1 for countries that have completed their ratification process. Its members are Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It is touted as the world's biggest trade agreement since it represents 30% of the world's gross domestic product.

The Philippines has yet to finalize its participation in RCEP after the Senate failed to act on it before adjourning on Feb. 3 for the election break. President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed the trade deal on Sept. 2.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Senator Aquilino Martin L. Pimentel III has said that discussions on RCEP are due to be held on May 30. The Senate is due to adjourn sine die on June 3, ahead of the entry of the newlyelected contingent of Senators.

Mr. Marcos said he is unsure whether agriculture is "sufficiently robust" to take on the competition resulting from the opening of markets under RCEP.

"Pag kaya ng ating magsasaka o suportahan natin, ng gobyerno, at kaya nila mag-compete, eh di iratify na natin 'yan. (When farmers are able to compete on their own or with government support, let's ratify it) But let's protect our farmers," he added.

Asked to comment, Trade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez said that the Department of Trade and Industry will brief Mr. Marcos on how safe domestic agriculture will be under RCEP.

"With due respect, we will assure the President-elect that RCEP is safe for the agriculture sector, mainly because no new sensitive agriculture products were included in RCEP," Mr. Lopez said in a Viber message.

"We need to nurture our local production capacity, not delay RCEP. We hope that the next administration will recognize that stopping the RCEP will not do any good," he added.

Mr. Lopez said the issue at hand is missing trade and investment



PRESIDENT-ELECT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

opportunities the longer RCEP participation remains in doubt.

He added that the Philippines and Indonesia are the only countries that have yet to finalize their participation.

"If we don't ratify, some investments will also shift towards RCEP participating countries because those countries will enjoy market concessions in other RCEP countries. This will affect our very good foreign direct investment (FDI) growth momentum and job generation goals after the pandemic," Mr. Lopez said.

Raul Q. Montemayor, agricultural group Federation of Free Farmers national manager, said that the Senate should defer any action regarding the RCEP and let the incoming administration handle the trade deal.

"The Senate should defer any action and give Mr. Marcos' administration the leeway to handle RCEP in accordance with his policy and vision for agriculture," Mr. Montemayor said in a Vibe message.

"What will benefit agriculture is not RCEP per se but the steps that the government will take to prepare our farmers to compete. In this way, they will benefit from trade agreements like RCEP and will not be unduly harmed by it," he added.

Foundation for Economic Freedom President Calixto V. Chikiamco said in a mobile phone message that a mechanism under RCEP allows the suspension of imports if there is an import surge that poses a threat to the domestic industry.

"A review would reveal that tariff protections for sensitive agricultural products, such as rice, corn, swine and chicken meat, garlic, etc. would remain in place," Mr. Chikiamco said.

"The negative impact of not joining RCEP would be most felt by industry, rather than agriculture, as it would lose to other manufacturers based in RCEP in other countries. To assess the overall impact of joining or not joining RCEP, one has to look not only at the impact on agriculture, but on industry as well," he added.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said in a Viber message that a review of RCEP would be "prudent."

"A review... would be prudent, in view of the country's existing free trade agreements (FTAs) that offer some reasonable level of production to rice farmers by maintaining comfortable levels of import tariffs due to the highly sensitive nature and vulnerability of the industry in terms of the importance of food security and to prevent dumping of cheaper agricultural imports with subsidies from their home countries," Mr. Ricafort said. - Revin Mikhael

D. Ochave