

05 February 2023, Sunday



DENR

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DENR issues violation notice to mining company

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has cited numerous violations over the mining operations of Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (APMC) in Sibuyan Island, Romblon.

In a Facebook post on Saturday, Bayay Sibuyanon chairman and Living Laudato Si' executive director Rodne Galicha said he attended a dialogue with officials from the APMC, DENR, Philippine National Police (PNP) and provincial government of Romblon.

Galicha said that during the dialogue, the DENR identified four violations that the APMC had committed, including of Presidential Decree 1067 or the "Water Code of the Philippines;" DENR Administrative Order 2004-04 and its implementing rules and regulations; section four of PD1586 that establishes an environmental impact statement system including other environmental management related measures; and section 77 of PD 705 on applying a scientific cut-

ting and rotation in all forest lands.

Specifically, the violations of the APMC are as follows: shore easement construction of structures, no foreshore lease agreement (Sec. 2c); salvage zone construction, construction of causeway without Environmental Compliance Certificate, and cutting/clearing of trees without permit.

"Items 1 and 2 are included in the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued on Feb. 1, 2023, and received by APMC on Feb. 2, 2023. The company is directed to stop further developing the area and avoid unnecessary activities that would worsen the situation in the area," wrote Galicha.

"NOV for Items 3 and 4 were supposed to be served to APMC on 3 February 2023, but the representative of the company declined to receive due to lack of authority to accept. DENR shall then post the NOV on the gate of APMC and other strategic places of operations."

Galicha clarified that the DENR

has not revoked APMC's exploration permit and its mineral production agreement with the company.

Galicha thanked Sen. Risa Hontiveros and PNP chief Rodolfo Azurin for initiating the dialogue as well as the provincial government for facilitating it.

"All these victories happened mainly because of the continued protests, barricade, action and expressions of Sibuyanons," he wrote.

Meanwhile, an advocacy group has condemned the violent police dispersal of a human barricade at the island.

In a statement on Friday, Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) said several residents were hurt, as they were trying to "guard their communities and protect the environment" from mining activities in the area.

"We demand an immediate investigation on the authorities involved in the violent dispersal," Agham campaign officer Cleng Julve said.

"The people of Romblon must be allowed to freely exercise their right to protect the environment and defend their island from destruction. APMC must stop their operations and pull out of the area. Their mining activities have already negatively impacted the forest cover and biodiversity of Sibuyan Island. If allowed to continue, it will mean further and irreversible destruction of the island's major river systems."

On Thursday, tensions flared between police and local residents who wanted to stop the APMC from taking away nickel ores from Sibuyan.

"Tension arose when police were deployed in the barricade area, reminding residents of past experience with armed forces hired to protect corporate mining interests," Agham's statement read.

PNP Romblon director Col. Jonathan Paguio, meanwhile, defended the police's actions but will look into abuses on their end.

ARIC JOHN SY CUA



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DENR PINATIGIL ALTAI MINING SA SIBUYAN

PANSAMANTALANG itinigil ang operasyon ng Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (APMC) sa Sibuyan Island, Romblon matapos silang isyuhan ng suspension ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong Sabado, Pebrero 4.

Ayon sa DENR, nakitaan ang APMC nang mga paglabag sa iba't ibang environmental laws kagaya ng paglabag sa Water Code of the Philippines, DENR Administra-

tive Order 2004-24 dahil sa kawalan ng foreshore lease agreement ng pantalan, Presidential Decree 1586 dahil sa paggawa ng causeway nang walang Environmental Compliance Certificate, at sa Presidential Decree 705 dahil sa pagpuputol ng mga kahoy nang walang permit. Sa ulat, ayon na rin sa grupong Alyansa Tigil Mina, pag-aari umano ng isang kapatid ni Senador Sherwin Gatchalian ang Altai.

Pormal nang inilagay ng DENR ang mga notice of violation sa lugar na pinagmiminahan ng Altai maging sa ginawa nilang pantalan sa Sitio Bato kung saan 12 araw nang nanatili at nagbabari-kada ang mga kontra mina na mga residente. Noong Biyernes ay nagkaharap-harap na sa isang dialogue ang mga environmental group kasama ang mga barangay official, opisyal ng probinsya at munisipyo,

kinatawan ng Philippine National Police (PNP), DENR at IBP Romblon. Dito napag-usapan ang mga naging paglabag ng mining company.

Ayon kay Rodne Galicha ng Living Laudato Si, bagama't may status quo ay hindi pa rin sila aalis sa lugar hangga't hindi umaalis ang malalaking barge at truck ng Altai.

Samantala, inilahad rin ni Galicha na napag-usapan sa dialogue ang kawalan ng transparency, coordination,

at respeto ng national government agencies sa mga lokal na pamahalaan.

"All these victories happened mainly because of the continued protests, barricade, action and expressions of Sibuyanons," pahayag pa ni Galicha.

Samantala, ipinaabot ng pamunuan ng PNP na kanilang aaksiyunan ang ginawa ng mga pulis sa barikada kung may matatanggap silang reklamo. **(Paul Jaysent Fos)**



Gatchalian kinaladkad sa Altai mining

Dinikit ang pamilya Gatchalian sa pagmina sa Sibuyan Island sa Romblon na maring tinututulan ng mga residente.

Ayon sa Alyansa Tigil Mina, ang kapatid nina Senador Sherwin Gatchalian at Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian na si Kenneth Gatchalian ay may koneksyon umano sa Altai Philippines Mining Corporation.

"Kapatid ni Senator si Kenneth - direct benefactor of Dynamo Atlantic Ltd., according to (PCLJ)," ayon sa

Alyansa Tigil Mina.

"It acquired Sibuyan Nickel Properties Dev't Corp., a partner of Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (APMC)," lahad pa ng grupo.

Samantala, nagsalita naman si Secretary Gatchalian tungkol sa nasabing isyu.

"Titingnan natin 'yan, kaya lang hindi ako makapagkomento sa isang bagay na hindi ko alam," wika ng kalinim sa panayam sa radyo.

"But as you brought it to my attention, I will look into it immediately," aniya pa. **(Ray Mark Patriarca)**



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Manila Bay's fight for life

Manila Bay is not dead. But whether it is barely living or has a healthy ecosystem is another matter. And whether it thrives or dies is up to government.

Since 2000, per the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), there have been 12 oil spills in Manila Bay, which also serves as a port. Together with the discharges from industries and cargo ships that dock at the port, DENR said these oil spills have increased the presence of oil and grease in the water. DENR's fisheries bureau has found traces of metals including copper, cadmium, and zinc coming from the bay's seabed—and because they have reduced the oxygen in the water, they have made the bay inhabitable for marine life. Fishermen have been told not to fish there because Manila Bay is supposedly dead.

But those who have been fishing in the bay have refuted this claim as reported in this paper last Jan. 31. They can still fish there, the fisherfolk said, with recent catch including “alubaybay,” a sardine variety that they would salt and dry then sell. Aside from fish, a 160 square meter coral garden was also discovered by volunteer divers in Ternate, Cavite, in June 2021. Then in February 2022 during a cleanup activity, coastal rangers of the Manila Baywalk found a sea hare and its eggs, as well as a file snake along the shore of the controversial dolomite beach. These are further proof that the bay, known for its beautiful sunset views, is very much alive.

Manila Bay, which covers the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, and Tarlac, has a rich history. It has witnessed and survived historic battles such as the Battles of La Naval de Manila that ended Dutch attempts to seize the Philippines, the Battle of Manila Bay during the Philippine-American War, and World War II that destroyed its fortified islands like Corregidor.

What it might not survive are the harmful human activities that have turned it into Metro Manila's dump site. Sewage from households, industries, and agriculture flows untreated and unchecked into the bay, bringing with it solid wastes such as plastic products and food scraps, polluting the water, and causing the coastline to overflow with trash. But more than the water pollution, experts said that government-sanctioned seabed quarrying has caused massive damages and losses in the bay's fishing grounds and marine resources.

These destructive activities, the many years of neglect, and willful ignorance about the need to rehabilitate it beyond cosmetic work on but a small portion like in the case of the dolomite beach are tantamount to deliberately killing Manila Bay. Despite petitions and pleas from environmental activists to rehabilitate the bay through clean-up, conservation, and restoration of marine ecosystems, the government has instead green-lighted reclamation projects that are seen to worsen its environment, threaten its survival, and ruin its ecosystem and biodiversity for good. There are at least 21 reclamation projects that have been approved and three more are in the pipeline—these will occupy 9,000 hectares of the sea and which, environmentalists have warned, could cause more flooding in places like Cavite and Las Piñas. It was revealed in a Senate hearing last year that many of these projects—that include the construction of an international airport, an expressway, and commercial and residential areas—were approved without proper consultation with stakeholders.

Oceana cited reasons why Manila Bay must be saved: 1) it is the center of biodiversity with over eight species of shellfish and 50 species of fish, including a newly-discovered species of sardines called *Sardinella pacifica*; 2) it serves as a stopover for different species of migratory birds that seek shelter in its wetlands, particularly the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area where the country's endemic ducks also seek refuge; 3) it has fruit-bearing mangroves including *Sonneratia caseolaris* whose fruit called mangrove apple (“palapat”) is used to make jams, tarts, candies, vinegar, and as a souring agent in *sinigang* and *paksiw*. However, these mangroves that help prevent erosion and absorb the impact of storms have been reduced to around 734 hectares from 74,000 hectares at the start of the 20th century.

The seabed quarrying and reclamation projects are not consistent with any rehabilitation effort. They will in fact cause irreversible damage to the bay's ecosystems, displace communities whose livelihood depends on it, and make cities and towns across three regions more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The DENR should put a stop to these reclamation and seabed quarrying activities unless it is the government's deliberate intent to murder the bay in favor of big business under the guise of development. It is ironic that while progressive countries are working toward environmental sustainability, the Philippines is destroying a very important ecosystem instead of helping it stay alive.



Tulfo wants ban on election tarpaulins

SENATOR Raffy Tulfo has filed a measure prohibiting the use of plastic tarpaulins during campaign season, noting the tons of garbage they create and their adverse effect on the environment.

In his Senate Bill (SB) No. 1762, or an "Act Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Posters during Campaign Season," Tulfo said he wanted to amend Republic Act (RA) No. 9006, or the Fair Election Act, saying there is no law limiting the use of plastic posters.

Tulfo noted the significant increase of plastic garbage collected during the 2022 national elections, which weighed a total of 254 tons or a 20% increase

from the 2016 national elections, based on a report by the Eco-Waste Coalition.

The group said heavy-duty tarpaulins may take a thousand years to decompose and end up in landfills and bodies of water, causing pollution and floods.

"Apart from that, these plastic posters also contain cadmium which, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), exerts toxic effects on the renal, skeletal, and respiratory systems, and is classified as a human carcinogen," Tulfo said in his explanatory note.

Based on the result of the Eco-Waste Coalition-commissioned laboratory test on campaign posters, the

multicolored coatings of campaign posters contained cadmium ranging from 607 to 775 parts per million (ppm). The white plastic sheet had cadmium between 384 to 546 ppm.

The group said these levels detected by SGS, a leading global testing company, were way above the 100 ppm limit for cadmium in plastics under European Union (EU) laws and WHO standards.

Under the proposed measure, the use of paper, clothes, and cardboard posters is encouraged as it also mandated the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to determine the sizes of the poster as enshrined in the Omnibus Election Code. **PNA**



BAN ON ELECTION TARPAULINS SOUGHT

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The use of tarpaulins as campaign materials during elections is common since it is easy to print and hang compared to traditional posters made of cloth or sack, the lawmaker said.

He added that efforts have been made by the government, non-government organizations, and the private sector to recycle the tarpaulins into market bags and seat covers.

PNA



Tarpaulin ibawal sa eleksyon - Tulfo

Isang panukala ang inihain ni Senador Raffy Tulfo upang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga plastic tarpaulin kapag panahon ng kampanya dahil sa negatibong epekto niya na hatid nito sa kapaligiran kapag nagiging basura na lamang.

Sa kanyang Senate Bill 1762, nais ni Tulfo na amyendahan ang Republic Act 9006 o Fair Election Act dahil sa kawalan niya ng batas na nagtatakda ng limitasyon sa paggamit ng mga poster na gawa sa plastic.

Binanggit pa ng senador na dumami ang mga plastic na basurang nakolekta sa nakaraang halalan noong 2022 kung saan ay umabot pa umano sa kabuuang 254 tonelada o 20 porsyentong pagtaas mula noong 2016 national elections batay sa ulat ng Eco-Waste Coalition.

Bukod sa matagal niya matunaw ang mga basurang gawa sa plastic, naglalaman din ang mga ito ng cadmium na ayon sa World Health Organization (WHO) ay mayroong nakalalasang epekto sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Saad pa sa panukala na dapat isulong ang paggamit na lamang ng papel, tela o cardboard poster at itakda ng Commission on Elections ang sukat ng mga poster alinsunod sa Omnibus Election Code.



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Negros Oriental's Lake Balinsasayao: More than a watershed, a haven of life

'For centuries, the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes have protected both upland and lowland communities from the worst effects of storms, floods, and droughts by stabilizing water distribution and the local climate.'

Lake Balinsasayao is reputedly among the most beautiful bodies of water in the Visayas, its shimmering surface reflecting the vibrant turquoise of the heavens and framed by verdant walls of green, broken only by rolling mists.

"Balinsasayao's twin lakes are known mostly to tourists escaping the seaside humidity of Dumaguete, but they also serve as a vital watershed for the province of Negros Oriental," said Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Viernov Grifalde.

The twin lakes of Balinsasayao and Danao serve as headwaters for five major river systems including the Amlan, Ayuqitan, Hinotongan, Okoy and Cautan Rivers. "These natural water reservoirs collect rainwater, supplying half-a-million people with potable water all year," Grifalde said.

Nearly 60 percent of the Philippines' land area hosts 142 critical watersheds. Watersheds require healthy forests, as the trees help absorb rainwater. The country's watersheds, however, are facing numerous threats, including illegal logging and destructive *kaingin* or slash-and-burn farming.

"We've fortunately managed to minimize these activities by combining effective enforcement and field patrols with a vigorous communications and public awareness campaign," Grifalde said.

"For centuries, the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes have protected both upland and lowland communities from the worst effects of storms, floods, and droughts by stabilizing water distribution and the local climate. We at the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources have been doing our best to protect the park, so our people can continue reaping its natural services," he added.

Declared a protected area in 2000, the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park



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spans 8016.05 hectares and is among six featured areas for the Year of the Protected Areas, a yearlong campaign to highlight the critical role played by the country's 247 protected areas for both people and nature.

BALINSASAYAO'S Twin Lakes on a sunny day. The earth's lakes and watersheds serve as natural reservoirs for freshwater, fueling agriculture and keeping faucets flowing in the lowlands. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR/DOT

Launched in May 2022, the YoPA is being spearheaded by the DENR, the United Nations Development Programme's Biodiversity Finance Project, the Department of Tourism, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and various local governments.

The campaign's six featured protected areas include Masbate's Bongsanglay Natural Park, Occidental Mindoro's Apo Reef Natural Park, Samar Island Natural Park, Davao Oriental's Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, Camiguin's Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument, and Negros Oriental's Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, home to endangered flora like the Almaciga tree and rarely-seen fauna like the reclusive Visayan Spotted Deer.

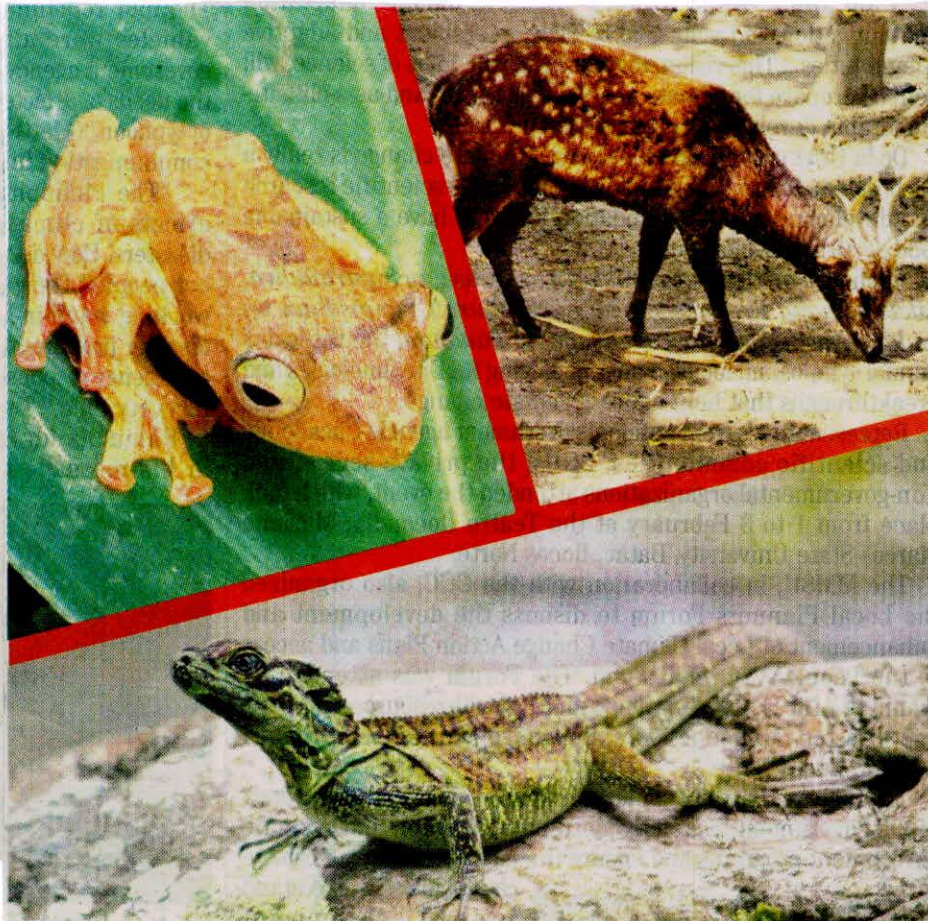
"Birdwatchers come from across the sea to see and photograph the colorful birds in the park. The world's rarest deer are said to live right in those hills," pointed out DENR's Sargie Dura.

"Our planet's protected areas aren't just great places to visit. They all serve key ecological functions

— from providing habitats to endangered wildlife to generating the water which keeps our faucets flowing," concluded BIOFIN Global Manager Onno van den Heuvel. "This World Wetlands Day, let's visit and support our local watersheds, our local reservoirs of life."

BIOFIN was launched in 2012 and seeks to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner — building a sound business case for increased investments in the management of ecosystems and biodiversity, with a particular focus on the needs and transformational opportunities at the national level. For more information: <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net>.

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PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF GREGG YAN/UNDP-BIOFIN PHILIPPINE sailfin dragons (*Hydrosaurus pustulatus*), the Visayan spotted deer (*Rusa alfredi*) — among the rarest deer on earth — and a harlequin tree frog (*Rhacophorus pardalis*). As a protected area, the Twin Lakes park is also a haven for birds and mammals.



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GREGG YAN/UNDP-BIOFIN

THE Balinsasayao Twin Lakes are famed for the delicious *pako* or vegetable fern (*Diplazium esculentum*) that sprouts wild around the park. The park hosts 237 plant species, and 124 of them are ferns.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR/DOT

THE Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, which lies in the Talinis Mountain Range some 15 kilometers west of Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental, provides over half-a-million people with freshwater.



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More than a Watershed above of life





Ex-Environment chief Alcala, 93

BY RED MENDOZA AND ARIC JOHN SY CUA

FORMER Environment secretary and National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala passed away last Wednesday, February 1, at the age of 93.

In a statement issued by the Department of Science and Technology, Alcala was recognized for his contributions in systematics, ecology, and diversity of amphibians and reptiles and marine biodiversity, reef fishes, and the conservation of marine protected areas.

His research and advocacy for marine no-take zones resulted in policy that established marine protected areas across the Philippines and became a model of coastal resource management.

Alcala was born on March 1, 1929 in the coastal village of Caliling in Cauayan, Negros Occidental. He studied at Silliman University, where he took his Bachelor of Science in Biology, magna cum laude, in 1951.

He received his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences from Stanford University in 1960 and 1966, respectively.

Alcala began as an instructor of Biology at Silliman University and

rose from the ranks, including becoming the dean of the College of Arts of Sciences, director of the Marine Laboratory, and eventually University president from 1991 to 1992.

He founded the Silliman Marine Laboratory, which remains active in research on marine-protected areas, fisheries, and marine biodiversity, mariculture and conservation of Philippine plant and animal studies.

Then president Fidel V. Ramos appointed Alcala as secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, where he initiated the marine conservation programs of the department.

He also was the first chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) from 1995 to 1999, where he promoted faculty capacity building and research projects to encourage research programs in colleges and universities.

CHED, in its message on its Facebook page, said that Alcala left behind a "colorful legacy in

the history of higher education as a former CHed Chairperson who played a pivotal role in building sanctuaries and promoting biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems."

Alcala published 80 papers on coral reef fish, marine reserves, and the long-term effects of protection on marine biodiversity such as corals and predatory fish.

Some of his awards were the Likas Yaman award by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in 1979, the Ilaw ng Karunungan Award by the Philippine Fulbrighters Association in 1983, Outstanding Biologist by the National Science and Technology Authority in 1985, the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1992, Outstanding Men and Women of Science by the DoST in 2009, and the Gregorio Y. Zara Award for Science by the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science Inc.

He was elected to the National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines (NAST-PHL) as an Academician and was conferred the Order of National Scientist by former president Benigno Aquino 3rd on June 6, 2014 by virtue of

Proclamation 783.

As a national scientist, Alcala is entitled to a state funeral to be conducted by the NAST PHL and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Tributes pour in

Tributes for Dr. Alcala came from across the country.

"Silliman University (SU) confirms with deep sadness the passing of National Scientist, Dr. Angel Chua Alcala — a pioneer of marine biodiversity and marine conservation in the Philippines and a pillar of the University," the university wrote on Facebook. "SU mourns the loss of a scientist, administrator, trustee, professor, morally upright family man, and public servant."

The flag at Silliman University is now flying at half-mast. His remains lie at the university's church.

Among the first to give their tribute was the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

"The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) mourns the passing of National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala, who



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is known as the 'father of marine protected areas,' a Facebook statement from the BFAR wrote on Thursday. "Among Dr. Alcala's significant contributions to marine biology and ecological conservation include the promotion of sustainable fishing and use of artificial reefs for fisheries in the region, as well as establishment of community-based coastal resources management."

"We join the international community in mourning the passing of a Filipino marine biologist and scientist and the 1992 Ramon Magsaysay," the Ramon Magsaysay Award wrote on its Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the Masungi Georeserve on Thursday paid tribute to its "First Defender."

"We mourn the passing of national scientist and former DENR Secretary Dr. Angel Alcala, whom we consider as 'Masungi's First Defender,'" the Georeserve wrote on Facebook.

"Until his passing, he continued to be an ally for Masungi. Thank you, Dr. Alcala, for being a shining light for the Philippine environment. We will do our best to keep your legacy alive."

Fulbright Philippines, in a

Facebook statement on Friday, mourns Alcala's loss.

"The Philippine-American Educational Foundation mourns the loss of National Scientist and Fulbrighter Dr. Angel Alcala.

"Dr. Alcala served as a prime example of being a trailblazer and pioneer in his respective field because of the Fulbright program."

On Friday, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the Philippines also paid tribute to Alcala.

"We are mourning the loss of a conservation hero and a dear friend, Dr. Angel Alcala," the WWF wrote.

"From the time of WWF-Philippines' founding in 1997, Dr. Alcala was a constant, kind and wise presence to us. He was instrumental in the founding and development of the organization and served on WWF-Philippines' National Advisory Council since the Council's formation in 2008."

On Saturday, the La Consolacion College Manila library also paid tribute to the late Alcala.

Silliman University said that donations can be made through the SU-Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management, to continue his work.



871 aftershocks recorded

State seismologists have recorded 871 aftershocks as of Saturday, Feb. 4, from the "very strong" magnitude-six earthquake that rocked Davao de Oro last week.

Of the recorded earthquakes with magnitudes ranging from 1.5 to 3.6, 77 were plotted while only two were felt.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said recorded quakes were logged by at least one station while plotted quakes were logged by three or more.

The magnitude-six tremor occurred at around 6:44 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Its epicenter was traced two kilometers southwest of Compostela, Davao de Oro with a depth of 17 kilometers.

Phivolcs on Saturday afternoon issued an updated list of areas where the earthquake was recorded.

It was Intensity VI or "very

strong" in Compostela, Mawab, Monkayo, Montevista, Nabunturan, and New Bataan; Davao de Oro; Asuncion, Carmen, Kapalong, New Corella, Island Garden City of Samal, San Isidro, Santo Tomas, and Tagum City, Davao del Norte;

Intensity V in Laak, Mabini, Maco, Maragusan, and Pantukan, Davao de Oro; Braulio E. Dujali, Davao del Norte; Baganga, Banaybanay, Boston, Cateel, and Lupon, Davao Oriental; and Santa Josefa, Agusan del Sur;

Intensity IV in Panabo City, Davao del Norte; Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur; Davao City; Caraga, Gov. Generoso, Manay, Mati City, San Isidro, and Tarragona, Davao Oriental; Butuan City; Bayugan City, Bunawan, La Paz, Prosperidad, and Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; and Bayabas and Bislig City, Surigao del Sur. (Charie Mae Abarca)



Mister tinuklaw ng cobra, patay

PANGANIBAN, Catanduanes -- Hindi na nagawa pang maisugod sa pagamutan at agad nasawi ang isang mister matapos na matuklaw ng ahas habang nangangahoy sa bulubunduking lugar ng Brgy. Mabini, Panganiban, Catanduanes kamakalawa ng umaga.

Sakay ng ginawang duyan pinagtulungang buhatin ng kanyang mga kabarangay pababa ng bundok ang walang malaytaong biktimang nakilalang si Jessie Ogalesco, 26-anyos, may-asawa at residente ng naturang lugar upang isugod sa pagamutan pero hindi na ito umabot nang buhay.

Ayon sa ulat, dakong alas-11 ng umaga ay umakyat ng bundok ang biktima para mangahoy.

Gayunman, habang naghahanap ng kahoy ay natuklaw ito ng cobra, isang uri ng makamandag na ahas, dahilan para agad itong manghina.

Pinagtulungan pa sanang buhatin ang biktima ng mga residenteng kalalakihan upang isugod sa pagamutan para mabigyan ng anti-venom pero halos dalawang oras bago ito naibaba ng kabundukan dahilan ng kanyang kamatayan.
(Jorge Hallare)



Ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila, Cavite mawawalan ng tubig

Inanunsyo kahapon ng Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) na mawawalan ng suplay ng tubig ang ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila at kalapit na lalawigan ng Cavite bunga ng pagtaas ng "raw water turbidity" dulot ng hanging amihan.

Ayon sa Maynilad, nagsimula na kahapon o Sabado ang water interruption hanggang sa Martes sa mga apektadong lugar sa Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Cavite, Parañaque, at Pasay City.

Ang water interruption sa Las Piñas ay mula alas-9 ng Pebrero 4 hanggang alas-4 ng hapon sa Pebrero 7, 2023.

Ang pagkawala ng tubig sa Muntinlupa ay alas-12:01 ng hapon simula nitong Sabado, Feb 4 hanggang Pebrero 7 ng alas-4 ng umaga.

Ang water interruption sa iba pang lugar ng Muntinlupa at sa naturang ibang LGU ay nagsimula ng alas-11:00 ng umaga kahapon, hanggang alas-5 ng umaga ng Pebrero 7.

Bunsod nito, sinabi ng Maynilad na may mga mobile tankers sila na iikot sa mga apektadong lugar para magbigay ng malinis na tubig.

Hinikayat ng Maynilad ang mga apektadong kustomer na oras umano na bumalik ang suplay ay hayaan munang dumaloy ang tubig sa gripo hangga't hindi ito nagiging malinaw.

Humingi ng despensa ang Maynilad sa mga apektadong residente.
-Angie dela Cruz-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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What motivates climate change deniers

There's politics, cash, fame, or fear in denying the issues of global warming

By ROLAND LLOYD PARRY



WILDFIRE A firefighter stands in front of flames during a forest fire in Saumos near Bordeaux, southwestern France (Philippe Lopez)

Right-wing ideologues funded by fossil fuels, fame-seeking narcissists, and doubt mongers monetizing their content are pushing climate disinformation that undermines the fight against global warming, researchers say.

Experts interviewed by AFP outlined six key things that motivate people to deny climate change or seek to delay action.

Oil money

Studies have documented flows of cash from the fossil fuel industry to conservative US think tanks, signalled by researchers as publishers of misleading climate claims.

Greenpeace on the site exxon-secrets.org published documents from oil giant ExxonMobil revealing donations it made in the 1990s and 2000s to three such bodies: the

Heartland Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and the Cato Institute. Exxon has repeatedly denied working against climate science.

An analysis of tax documents and donor records by sociologist Robert Brulle of Brown University found that 91 climate-sceptic think tanks and lobby groups received income of \$900 million from 2003



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to 2010, largely from conservative foundations.

Since the mid-2000s, the funding has largely been channelled through philanthropic groups that conceal their donations.

"Fossil fuel companies have a long history of funding climate misinformation promulgated by conservative think tanks," Brulle told AFP. "This misinformation has misled many Americans regarding the risks associated with climate change and hindered actions to mitigate carbon emissions."

Monetizing

Elsewhere there are individuals "who benefit from the outrage economy online and are exploiting the current business model of social media, which allows them to monetize climate denial and climate disinformation," said Jennie King, head of civic action at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), a Lon-

'Malignant narcissism probably is a big driver of the influencers.'

This kind of mini-celebrities—what makes them popular, famous, gets followers, gets blog readers, is their denial of the science.'

don-based digital research group.

"There is a large element of grift taking place in the online space. By cultivating a brand as these contrarian, intellectual Dark Web pundits, they gain increasing prominence on social media platforms," she said. "That drives traffic to their websites and increases the likelihood of them developing brand relationships, sponsorship, and paid talking appearances."

Ideology

For psychologists, climate disinformation is driven by free-market ideals that make people reject climate reforms.

"The number one driver of whether people accept climate science or reject it is their personal ideology," said Stephan Lewandowsky, a psychology professor at Bristol University who researches attitudes to climate change. "People who are committed to unregulated free markets find it impossible to accept the science because the implications of the science are that we have to have regulations or a price on carbon."

Politics

Some of the most widely shared social media posts come from politicians, such as US ex-president Donald Trump's repeated claims on Twitter that snowfall was evidence against global warming.

"People who vote conservative are more likely to be climate deniers," said John Cook, a researcher at Monash University in Melbourne and founder of the climate explainer



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site Skeptical Science. "Not liking the solutions to climate change, they reject that there's a problem in the first place."

A November 2022 study in *Nature* by researchers at City, University of London revealed a rise in ideological polarization around climate change during the COP26 climate summit in 2021, "driven by growing right-wing activity."

Psychology

A 2022 article co-authored by Lewandowsky and Matthew Hornsey of the University of Queensland pointed to other psychological aspects of climate claims, such as "motivated reasoning"—people deciding what they believe and then seeking evidence that supports their view—and "solution aversion" against reforms that imply painful sacrifice.

"On top of that, people are fearful of climate change," said Lewandowsky. "Jumping into denial in the context of fear is not uncommon. The pandemic is another prime example."

Fame

Some climate contrarians have millions of followers on social media.



THE AIR WE BREATHE Air pollution in the Iranian capital Tehran (Atta Kenare)

"Malignant narcissism probably is a big driver of the influencers," said Cook. "This kind of mini-celebrities—what makes them popular, famous, gets followers, gets blog readers, is their denial of the science."

Some prolific contrarians are former weather forecasters, such as Anthony Watts, founder of sceptic blog Watts Up With That—or scientists themselves.

"I can think of individual instances of academics who had an extremely mediocre career at best and then climate change came along and they said, 'Oh, it's a hoax,' and claimed to have some expertise," said Lewandowsky. "They were flooded with media requests. These guys are motivated by attention." (AFP)



VANISHING WILDLIFE Mallard ducks prepare to land on a pond at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, Maryland

