

08 February 2023, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR-PhilSA creating geospatial database

BY JING VILLAMENTE

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Space Agency this week sealed a partnership to create the national environment and natural resources (ENR) geospatial database.

A memorandum of agreement was signed between Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga and PhilSA Director General Dr. Joel Joseph S. Marciano Jr. for a collaborative project of using satellite imagery in creating the national ENR geospatial database, and in other related programs of the DENR.

"A geospatial platform is fundamental for us in terms of establishing the physical basis of our natural resources, and in terms of our wanting to inventory them for strategic and critical development of our country," Loyzaga said.

The MoA specifically covers two initiatives: the National Greening Program progress monitoring through the use of current and emerging space science and technology applications capabilities in the country, and the establishment of a comprehensive national geospatial database for the Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting Program, which includes the collection of climate information and conduct analysis.

PhilSA will be responsible in developing and generating maps, systems and tools on a national level that analyzes vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change and disasters, among many others.





## DENR urged to revoke MPSA of Altai

AN official of the Sibuyanons Against Mining on Tuesday said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should revoke the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) of Altai Philippines Mining Company (APMC) after the DENR ordered the suspension of its mining operation in Romblon.

In a radio interview, Sibuyanons Against Mining coordinator Elizabeth Ibañez maintained that the actions of the DENR against APMC were not enough.

"Our call is to ensure that APMC will permanently leave the area by revoking the MPSA of Altai. Until the mining company leaves the

area, we will not be at peace as it is possible that they will resume their operation in the mountains," Ibañez said.

DENR Mimaropa regional director Joe Amil Salino has ordered the APMC to suspend its mining operation in Sibuyan Island as he issued notice of violation against APMC for operating a causeway project without an environmental compliance certificate.

Ibañez added that as of Tuesday, ores from the barge were still being unloaded at the pier.

"The ore from the barge that was supposed to be transported to China, was being unloaded at the pier. The problem is the soil

is being dumped at the pier. Once it rains, it will be washed out into the ocean. It will contaminate the water," Ibañez noted.

According to Ibañez, the DENR should ensure that APMC should be held liable amid the various violations it committed.

"The mining company committed a lot of violations. It caused the destruction of the mountain, including the denudation of forest. Many people were also hurt. The activities caused inconvenience to the residents," she added.

At the same time, Ibañez echoed the statement of Councilor Jhay Romero of Barangay España, San Fernando, Romblon that the

human barricade of residents will continue.

"The police are still there claiming they are allegedly maintaining the peace and order. Until then, we will maintain our barricade as we are awaiting concrete action from the government. We cannot afford to lower our guard as once the cease and desist order is lifted, the operation of Altai will resume," she said.

Ibañez also welcomed the announcement of Sen. Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros that she will file a resolution calling on the Senate to formally look into the violations of APMC.

BELLA CARIASO





Gatchalian firm binaboy 'Galapagos of Asia'

# DENR HINARANG ALTAI MINING SA SIBUYAN

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## DENR HINARANG ALTAI MINING SA SIBUYAN

INIUTOS ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paghinto sa operasyon ng Altaí Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) sa Sibuyan Island, Romblon dahil sa ilang diumano'y mga paglabag sa kanilang operasyon.

Ayon sa inilabas na joint order ng DENR-MIMAROPA Region, binanggit nito ang pagpapahinto sa mga aktibidad ng APMC tulad ng construction at operation ng causeway sa bayan ng San Fernando "as a precautionary measure against potential irreparable damage to the government."

Napag-alamang gumagawa ang APMC ng causeway nang walang aprubadong lease agreement at environmental compliance certificate.

Sinususpinde rin ng DENR ang ore transport permit na inisyu sa APMC at inutusan ang mining firm na ihinto ang pagdadala ng nickel ore mula sa contract site patungo sa causeway.

Ang aplikasyon ng kompanya para sa miscellaneous lease agreement ay binasura rin dahil sa paglabag sa Public Land Act.

Inatasan din ang Provincial Environment and Natural Resources ng Romblon na magsagawa ng imbestigasyon sa mga potensyal na nasirang sea-grass at yamang dagat, at maghain ng naaangkop na mga legal na aksiyon, kung kinakailangan, sa iniulat na pagputol ng mga puno nang walang permit.

Inanunsyo ng APMC nitong Lunes na ititigil na nito ang mga exploration at testing activity sa Sibuyan Island. Nakahanda rin silang makikipag-tulungan at makikipag-ugnayan sa mga awtoridad upang matugunan ang mga isyu sa kanilang operasyon sa nasabing isla.

Ang APMC ay minamay-ari ng plastic king na si William Gatchalian.

Pinaimbestigahan na rin sa Senado ang ginawang pagmimina sa Sibuyan na binansagang 'Galapagos of Asia' dahil mayaman ito sa flora at fauna at dito rin naninirahan ang mga threatened species ng mga ibon sa Mt. Guiting-Guiting National Park. (Issa Santiago)





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## FIRING LINE

ROBERT B. ROQUE, JR.

### Halt to mining in Sibuyan suspicious

For now, the Altai Philippine Mining Corp. (APMC) has ceased its operations to extract nickel ore from Sibuyan Island in the town of San Fernando, Romblon. The human barricade did well in drawing media attention to the serious concerns of island residents and environmentalists.

This halt, though, is not the result of legal action or government sanctioning, so it is non-binding. Altai has only agreed to stop its mining activities until after sorting out three violations pointed out by authorities.

From the APMC's standpoint, this is just a hiccup in its 25-year operation plan to mine the area. Even if protesters were correct in claiming that it had been operating illegally, there seems to be no resolve on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to shut the mining firm down.

If Altai eventually gets its way, what's bothersome is that the government shall have demonstrated how poorly it

upholds laws to protect the environment and the community living in resource-rich areas.

Obviously, we haven't learned enough from the Marcopper disaster to demand more than just minimum compliance from today's mining firms.

Back to bullying

China is back to its bullying tactics in the West Philippine Sea. This time it is using two of its coast guard ships and two other maritime militia vessels to test the patience of our very own navy ship BRP Andres Bonifacio (PS-17) near Panganiban Reef.

What happens at sea directly represents President Xi Jinping's two-faced diplomacy toward the Philippines.

Too many, too often, too blatant, too antagonistic, and too oppressive have been the encroachments made by Chinese vessels in the WPS that our fishermen have lost their livelihood and our sovereign rights over our maritime borders trampled on.

So, here we are now, forced to look at the option of holding joint

coast guard patrols with our defense ally, the United States. Maybe, China doesn't want that to happen; but they sure were asking for it.

'Doctored' by doctors?

The country's leading forensic pathologist, Dr. Raquel Fortun, must be sick to her stomach that her recent review has exposed how doctors certified as "natural causes" the deaths of drug war victims who agents of the law had gunned down.

Fortun said she was "being nice" in saying that 12 cases were "mis-certifications" by doctors who declared pneumonia, hypertension, infarction, and sepsis as the causes of death.

It's about time the National Bureau of Investigation stepped in, not just to prosecute the killers but to build criminal cases against the doctors and see them jailed for hiding these heinous crimes.

\* \* \*

**SHORT BURSTS.** For comments or reactions, email [iringline@ymail.com](mailto:iringline@ymail.com) or tweet @SideView. Read current and past issues of this column at Goodbye, pseudo-journalists and trolls!





## Sibuyan, Romblon: 'Galapagos of Asia'



REY MARFIL

**Abante**  
**SPY ON  
THE JOB**

**M**ay mga tropapips tayo na inihalintulad ang mga nagmimina sa lalaking matindi ang tama sa Sibuyan Island sa Romblon na para naman daw isang dilag na "birhen at napakaganda" na gustong simsimin ang bango.

Pero bago 'yan, nailibing na nitong Linggo sa Las Piñas ang pinaslang na OFW na si Jullebee Ranara, na pinagsamantalahan umano, nabuntis, pinatay at sinunog ng 17-anyos na anak ng kaniyang amo sa Kuwait.

Sa kabila ng napakasakit na pang-yayari, malaking tulong sa pamilya ni Ranara para maibsan ang sama ng loob at lungkot ang mga tulong na ibinibigay ng gobyerno at maging ng ibang opisyal, at pribado.

Batay sa mga ulat, bukod sa mga tulong pinansiyal at insurance, may scholarship na matatanggap ang mga anak ni Ranara hanggang sa makatapos sila ng pag-aaral. Sana lang eh huwag sayangin ng mga bata ang pagkakataon.

Bukod doon, sinasabing nabigyan ng bagong bahay ang pamilya ni Ranara. May mga report din na tinulungan daw na maipagawa ang luma nilang bahay sa probinsiya. Sana eh totoo ang mga ito at hindi papogi lang.

Sa kabila ng mapait na nangyari, marahil maiibsan ang lungkot maging ni Ranara kung makikita niya na kahit papaano eh magiging maayos ang buhay ng kaniyang pamilya. Iyon naman ang dahilan kaya nangingibang-bayan ang mga OFW; ang mabigyan ng magandang buhay ang kanilang mga anak.

Sabi ng ilan nating ayudanatics na kurimaw, magandang gawin ang mga ganitong klase ng tulong kahit sa mga OFW na buhay at patuloy patuloy na kumakayod sa ibang bansa. Ibig nilang sabihin, gawing regular ang pagbibigay ng bahay at mga scholarship kahit man lang sa 10 deserving OFWs o domestic helper bawat taon. Bilang pasasalamat nga naman sa kanila na itinuturing mga bagong bayani. Why not nga naman?

Speaking of tulong, humihingi rin ng tulong ang mga taga-Sibuyan, Romblon dahil sa pagpapahintulot ng pamahalaan na magkaroon ng pagmimina sa kanilang lugar.

Ilang dekada na kasing pinupuntirya ng mga mining company ang Sibuyan na mayaman sa mineral gaya

ng nickel, chromite, cobalt at iron.

At kamakailan nga, nagkaroon ng tulakan ang mga pulis at mga nagpoprotesta na humaharang sa mga truck na hahakot ng mineral papunta sa ginawang pantalan kung saan nakatambay ang mga barko.

Panawagan sa pamahalaan ng mga taga-Sibuyan, ibasura o pawalang-bisa ang ano mang permit na nagpapahintulot na pumutol ng puno at bumungkal ng lupa sa lalawigan na hitik at mayaman sa mga halaman at hayop kaya binansagan itong "Galapagos of Asia".

Kilala ang Sibuyan sa bulubundukin nitong Mt. Guiting-Guiting National Park. May mga ibon na rito lang umano makikita gaya ng hanging parrot o "Kulasisi". Nandoon din ang critically endangered Philippine na Tube-nosed Fruit Bat. Bukod pa sa 700 uri daw ang halaman at 54 ang endemic o doon lang makikita.

Dapat daw na ipatigil ng DENR ang anumang aktibidad ng pagmimina sa isla, at suriin ang pinsalang idinulot na nito sa kalikayan. Kahit nga raw ang ginawang pantalan eh bara-bara. Ang problema, balitang malakas ang backer ang mga minero kahit pa itanong sa mga mambabatas na pumupormang maka-masa at makakalikasar. Laging Tandaan: "Bata mo ko at Ako ang Spy n'yo."





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## DENR urges public to be part of solution vs waste problem

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**BE part of the solution to the growing waste management problem in the country.**

This is the appeal of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to the general public, saying that it is high time that people take responsibility and do their best to properly dispose of waste with zero waste living—reuse, reduce, recycle—on top of everyone's mindset.

The EMB stressed that every action counts regarding solid waste management as the country already suffers from garbage overload, lack of land to serve

as sanitary landfills, and even the mismanagement of these solid waste disposal systems.

It further said that it is very important that households and communities have zero waste strategies in place, especially since the Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, has been in effect for 22 years now.

Among these strategies are composting organic wastes, switching to reusable containers and bags instead of using single-use plastics, segregating wastes, and retrieving recyclable materials.

The EMB expressed confidence that the newly enacted Extended Producers

Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, or RA 11898, would remarkably aid in addressing the country's solid waste and plastic pollution problems.

The EPR Act, which lapsed into law on July 30, 2022, mandates enterprises to establish EPR programs that focus on waste reduction, recovery, and recycling of plastic packaging.

It also promotes the development of environ-

ment-friendly products that advocate sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, and full responsibility throughout the life cycle of products.

On Feb. 9-10, the EMB will host a conference of various stakeholders to share initiatives toward an efficient EPR and a ceremonial commitment of the industry sector to EPR compliance and submission to the EPR program.



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## DENR-EMB seeks zero waste goal

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging the public to be part of the solution to take action to achieve zero waste.

The agency through its Environmental Management Bureau called on the people that it is high time to take responsibility and do their "best to properly dispose waste with zero waste living—reuse, reduce, recycle—on top of everyone's mindset."

The DENR said each person's action matters as the country is already suffering from garbage overload, lack of land to serve as sanitary landfills and even the mismanagement of solid waste disposal systems.

The bureau said it is vital that households and communities have zero waste strategies in place, especially since Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 has been in effect for 22 years now. **Rio N. Araja**





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## DENR urges Pinoys to step up role in campaign to zero waste

By Joel dela Torre

THE Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging every Filipino to join hands in the campaign to achieve zero waste after the country's participation of the National Zero Waste Month.

According to the DENR, it is always nice to see people as part of the solution and not a problem to the growing waste man-

agement.

National Zero Waste Month is observed during January of every year pursuant to Proclamation No. 760 signed in 2014 by then President Benigno S. Aquino Jr.

Believing that every action counts when it comes to solid waste management, the EMB said it is high time people take responsibility and do their best to properly dispose waste with zero waste living—reuse, reduce, recycle—on top of everyone's mindset.

"Each person's action matters as the country al-

ready suffers from garbage overload, lack of land to serve as sanitary landfills, and even the mismanagement of these solid waste disposal systems," the Bureau stated.

The EMB said it is vital that households and communities have zero waste strategies in place, especially since Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 has been in effect for 22 years now.

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development of environment-friendly products that advocate sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, and full responsibility throughout the lifecycle of products.

Last month, the DENR spearheaded several activities for the dual celebration of National Zero Waste Month with the theme "Stepping Up Solid Waste Management through Efficient Extended Producers' Responsibility," and the 22nd anniversary of the signing of RA 9003.





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Sta. Elena Construction suka ng ₱370M - LLDA



Alice Eduardo

# CONTRACTOR BISTADO

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# SA ILLEGAL RECLAMATION



## Sta. Elena Construction suka ng ₱370M – LLDA CONTRACTOR BISTADO SA ILLEGAL RECLAMATION

Pinatigil ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang trabaho sa tinatayong township ng Sta. Elena Construction and Development sa C-6 sa Taguig at pinagmumulta din ang kompanya ng P370 milyon.

Ayon sa Shoreline Management Office ng LLDA, nag-isyu ito ng cease and desist order sa Sta. Elena Construction dahil sa ilegal na reklamasyon na ginawa nito sa Laguna Lake.

Ang Sta. Elena ang contractor ng Bacnotan Power Plant sa Batangas, ang Entertainment City at ng Total Petroleum Loading Jetty. Ito ay pinamumunuan ng negosyanteng si Alice Eduardo.

Ayon sa LLDA-SMO, ginawa ang reklamasyon ng

walang clearance sa tanggapan at wala rin itong development clearance.

Sa panayam sa DZRH, sinabi ni LLDA General Manager Jaime Medina na isa ang Sta. Elena Construction sa mga kinasuhan ng LLDA.

Sabi ng LLDA-SMO, Pebrero 2022 pa inisyuhan ng cease and desist order ang Sta. Elena at isa sa mga problema sa proyekto nito ay ang titulo ng mga lupa. Ang multang humigit kumulang na P370 milyon ay base sa zonal valuation sa lugar.

Dagdag ng LLDA-SMO, 36 ang titulong hawak ng Sta. Elena para sa 21.7 ektarya sa lugar ngunit hindi malinis o may kuwestyon ang ilan sa mga ito.

Tinangka namang hingan ng reaksyon ang Sta. Elena sa kautusan ng LLDA pero hanggang sa isinusulat ang balitang ito ay wala pang tugon mula sa naturang kompanya. **(Eileen Mencias)**





# We can save the planet

## Legarda optimistic about ozone recovery: We can win the fight against climate change

**S**enator Loren Legarda recently expressed optimism that humanity could win the fight against climate change if global policies and actions were put in place and implemented to significantly cut down greenhouse gas emissions, similar to the effort against ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

Legarda cited a 2022 report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that the ozone layer—which protects the planet from harmful ultraviolet rays and was thinning in the 1980s due mainly

to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—is on track to recover to 1980 levels by 2040 in most parts of the world because of positive actions taken under the Montreal Protocol, a treaty adopted in 1987 to regulate and phase down ODS.

Since the Montreal Protocol entered into force in 1989, the use of CFCs has decreased by 99 percent.

to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—is on track to recover to 1980 levels by 2040 in most parts of the world because of positive actions taken under the Montreal Protocol, a treaty adopted in 1987 to regulate and phase down ODS.

She also said that since the treaty entered into force in 1989, the use of CFCs has decreased by 99 percent. Compliance with the treaty has also resulted in a decline in ODS emissions and avoidance of global warming of approxi-

mately 0.5–1°C by mid-century, compared to an extreme scenario with an uncontrolled increase in ODS of 3–3.5 percent per year. “What we are doing for our ozone, we must now do for our climate. We already have the Paris Agreement as the landmark treaty on climate change, but countries must have the will to deliver on their commitments, most especially in undertaking significant and deep cuts on fossil fuel emissions and mobilizing finance, technologies, and capacity development support

to countries and communities who need it,” Legarda explained. “Global and domestic policies that favor a transition toward a low carbon and climate-resilient development path must also be put in place, particularly in utilizing renewable energy resources, adopting sustainable systems and technologies, and shifting to a circular economy.”

The senator said that current commitments contained in the Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDCs) of countries are projected to result in a planet with a global warming level of at least 2.5 degrees Celsius, a degree beyond the 1.5°C climate threshold prescribed in the Paris Agreement and by scientists across the globe.

She added that the annual mobilization of \$100 billion of climate finance for developing countries, starting in 2020, remains unmet and that opening more access to climate finance from public and private sources and philanthropies, and for multilateral development banks and financial institu-

tions to improve their business models to accept risks and leverage finance for developing countries is needed.

“The depleting ozone layer was such a huge environmental concern back then, but we were able to diagnose the problem and unite to address it. The recovery of our ozone layer is a sign that we are capable of healing our climate and gives us more reason to hope for a better planet and future for all,” Legarda concluded.





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# Daily Tribune

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PERSONNEL of the Philippine Coast Guard plant 400 mangrove propagules in Barangay Davila, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte as part of the marine environmental protection initiatives in celebration of the recent World Wetlands Day and the PCG's North Western Luzon District's 39th founding anniversary. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD





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## Women's club conducts tree planting in La Mesa



**TREE PLANTING.** Officer of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines led by its president Linda Gonzales and NFWC foundation president Mary Jane Ortega participate in the Million Trees Foundation tree-planting activity at the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City.

IN observance of its 102nd founding anniversary, the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines (NFWC) led by its president Linda Gonzales conducted a tree planting activity the other day at the Million Trees Nursery and Eco Learning Center inside the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City.

"This is a milestone project for NFWC as we observe our anniversary by planting trees and becoming a new partner of the Million Trees Foundation Inc. in our collective effort to save the watersheds that are sources of water and in our fight against climate change," Gonzales said.

Other prominent NFWC officers present include past presidents Mary Jane Ortega and Ester Santa Ana, and officers VP Erlinda Tiu, VP Merlinda Sualibios, Lariden Honorio, Marilyn Aggabao, Maria Theresa Timbol, Fe Soriano.

In a video message, MWSS Trustee and NFWC Director Melanie Lambino cited the importance of planting trees and protecting the watersheds for water security.

For his part, MTFI president and executive director Melandrew Velasco, who served as guest speaker, lauded NFWC and its members for their continuing effort to serve God, country and home by embarking on a nationwide advocacy to plant trees for Mother Earth.

"Thank you for continuing with your mothering duties and in loving and serving our country, this time by joining the movement to plant million of trees to protect our watersheds. I am one with NFWC having published a book on Angela Valdez Ramos, mother of former President Fidel V. Ramos. Angela or Ilang Ramos was one of the leading icons and leaders for women's right to vote in 1937 and in NFWC's eminent role in then led by its president Josefa Llanes Escoda taking care of the Prisoners of War (POW) at Camp O' Donnell in Capas, Tarlac during World 2," Velasco said.





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# Why was the Turkey-Syria earthquake so deadly?

**PARIS:** A combination of factors made the powerful earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria early Monday particularly deadly, including its timing, location, relatively quiet fault line and the weak construction of the collapsed buildings, experts said.

More than 2,300 people have been killed by the 7.8-magnitude quake near Turkey's Syrian border, with the toll expected to grow as aftershocks reverberate throughout the day.

The earthquake caused such devastation partly because of its power — it is the strongest earthquake to hit Turkey since 1939 — and because it hit a populated region.

Another reason is that it occurred at 4:17 a.m. (0117 GMT), which meant that sleeping people were "trapped when their houses collapsed," Roger Musson, honorary research associate at the British Geological Survey, told Agence France-Presse.

The construction of buildings was also not "really adequate for an area that's susceptible to large earthquakes," said the author of the book *The Million Death Quake*.

That could partly be due to the fact that the fault line on which the earthquake struck has been relatively quiet recently.

Turkey is in one of the world's most active earthquake zones. A quake along the North Anatolian fault line in the northern Turkish region of Duzce killed more than 17,000 people in 1999.

But Monday's earthquake occurred on the other side of the country, along the East Anatolian fault.

The East Anatolian fault has not had a magnitude-7 quake for over two centuries, which could mean people were "neglecting how dangerous" it is, Musson said.

Because it had been so long since the last big quake, "quite a lot of energy" may have built up, Musson theorized.

The strength of the aftershocks on Monday, including a huge 7.5-magnitude tremor, supported this theory, he added.

### 'Rerun' of 1822

This earthquake was "almost a rerun" of a 7.4 magnitude one in the same area on Aug. 13, 1822, Musson said.

It caused "an enormous amount of damage, whole towns in ruins, and casualties in the tens of thousands," he said.

Aftershocks from that quake continued to rumble until June the following year.

The epicenter of Monday's earthquake was at a relatively shallow depth of about 17.9 kilometers near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is home to around 2 million people.

It was caused by the Arabian tectonic plate moving northward, "scraping past Turkey," Musson said.

"Because it cannot move smoothly, it sticks," he said.

"The release of that movement along the fault is what produces a major earthquake like the one we've had today."

Musson emphasized that the epicenter of such an earthquake was less important than how far the rupture extended along the fault line — in this case, around 100 kilometers.

"This means that anywhere within the 100 km along the trend of the fault is effectively right on top of the earthquake," he said.

### 'Patchy' infrastructure

Carmen Solana, a volcanologist at the UK's Portsmouth University, said that because earthquakes cannot be predicted, tremor-resistant buildings were crucial in affected areas.

"The resistant infrastructure is unfortunately patchy in South Turkey and especially Syria, so saving lives now mostly relies" on efforts to rescue survivors, she added.

In response to the 1999 earthquake, Turkey's government passed legislation in 2004 mandating that all new construction met modern earthquake-proof standards.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made strong construction into a political priority after another quake struck the Aegean coast in 2020, killing 114 people.

Joanna Faure Walker, head of the University College London's Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, called for Turkey to check whether the legislation had been adhered to in light of the latest disaster.

She also urged Turkey to review "whether there is possibility to improve the safety of older buildings."

Bill McGuire, a volcanologist at University College London, said that "in Syria many structures have already been weakened by more than a decade of war." **AFP**





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## Phivolcs: Another magnitude 7.8 quake possible in PH

IN the wake of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) yesterday said such a magnitude is also likely to happen in the country.

"There's always this possibility. In fact, it already happened on July 16, 1990. To recall, the 1990 Luzon earthquake is magnitude 7.8," Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol said

in a public briefing.

Bacolcol added that the country has many active faults that are capable of generating magnitude 7.8 earthquakes.

Based on instrumental records, the 1990 Luzon earthquake is the strongest to hit the country, he continued.

According to Phivolcs' website, the 1990 Luzon earthquake produced a 125 km-long ground rupture that stretches from Dingalan, Aurora to Kayapa, Nueva

Vizcaya. The quake was caused by strike-slip movements along the northwest segment of the Philippine Fault Zone and its splay, the Digidig Fault.

"We have several active segments in the Philippines. It's more than a hundred segments, but the longest is the Philippine Fault — 1,200 kilometers from Davao to Luzon," Bacolcol said. The Phivolcs chief added that the Philippine Fault moved just last week, causing the magnitude 6

earthquake in Davao de Oro.

He said he thinks that people are more prepared now compared to 20 years ago and because people are regularly participating in the quarterly earthquake drills.

"People now are more aware than they were 20 years ago, and especially with the advent of social media. They see the effects of strong earthquakes like what happened in Turkey," he said. PNA