

Tasaday Controversy

1971



In 1971, Manuel Elizalde Jr., the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN), claimed to have discovered a group of living stone-age people in the Philippines: the Tasaday. The discovery fascinated the international community and was even featured as a cover story of the National Geographic Magazine in 1972. Later, it was revealed that it was a hoax orchestrated by Elizalde and that the Tasadays were really individuals from the Manobo and T'boli indigenous communities.

Taong 1971 nang ibahagi ng Presidential Assistant on National Minorities (PANAMIN) na si Manuel Elizalde Jr. ang panirahan ng grupo ng mga tao mula sa panahong Paleolitiko sa Lawa ng Sebu sa Mindanao: ang mga Tasaday. Marami ang naging interesado sa pagkatuklas sa kanila, kasama na ang mga mamamahayag sa loob at labas ng bansa, hanggang sa nailathala ang istoryang ito sa National Geographic Magazine noong 1972. Hindi kalaunan, nabunyag ang panlilinlang ni Elizalde at napatunayan ng mga iskolar na hindi mula sa panahong Paleolitiko ang mga Tasaday kundi sila ay mga Manobo at T'boli.

References:

Dumont, J.-P. (1988). The Tasaday, Which and Whose? Toward the Political Economy of an Ethnographic Sign. *Cultural Anthropology*, 3(3), 261-275.; <https://newslab.philstar.com/31-years-of-amnesia/tasaday>

Tasadays. Photo by John Nance/AP. Retrieved from "Did the Marcos government discover the Tasadays? THE STONE AGE TRIBE THAT NEVER WAS," by AJ Bolando, *The Philippine Star* via <https://newslab.philstar.com/31-years-of-amnesia/tasaday>

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We will never forget.



Acknowledgements

UP Diliman Office of the Chancellor

Ateneo Martial Law Museum and Library
<https://martiallawmuseum.ph/>

Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial
Commission (HRVVMC)
<https://hrvvmemcom.gov.ph/>

Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation
<https://bantayogngmgabayani.org/>

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