

Benguet typhoon death count up to 17; property losses heavy. Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. XXIX, No. 6 issued on June 6, 1976. The article is located at pages 8 and 9. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera Studies Collection of the University of the Philippines-Baguio Library.

Benguet typhoon death count up to 17; property losses heavy

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — Landslides triggered by typhoon Didang claimed 17 lives in three municipalities in Benguet. This was confirmed last week by the Benguet Disaster Control Center headed by governor Ben Palispis and Col. Carlos F. Malana, provincial PC commander, Baguio City police station commander and concurrent Integrated National Police superintendent.

by Oswald N. Alvaro
(Courier Staff)

In Itogon 14 casualties were reported by mayor Alejo Pacalso. They are: Tiburcio Balong, 58; Alfonsa Basi, 52; Maria Wesley, 39; Lucida D. Wesley, 38; Evelyn D. Wesley, 9; Arlen Wesley, all from sitio Beleng, barrio Lawigen; Pablo Torino, 55; Susan Pablo, 46; Clemente Pablo, 15; Victor Pablo, 11; Mercy

Pablo 7; Venancio Samson, 16; Jane Samson, 14; and Lolita Samson, 12; from sitio Sacdangan, barrio Ampucao. A total of eleven houses were also wrecked, three of which were carried away by rampaging waters along the swollen Agno river.

Kabayan mayor Octaviano C. Aroco identified one casualty from barrio Eddet as Lydia Tambic while Bokod mayor Eugene Badival reported two deaths in his town. The fatalities were unidentified at press time.

A total of 15,787 families from 13 towns here representing 78,568 persons were badly affected. 2,238 families were evacuated by responding inter-agency government disaster teams. 2,248 houses were totally destroyed while 1,748 houses were partially damaged.

In another development, joint crop damages report submitted to the Benguet Disaster Center by the Bureau of Plant Industry and

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the provincial agriculturist amounted to P37,840,588.00. The figure represents collated farm and crop damages from Benguet's 13 towns. Most of those damaged were farmlots and crops assisted by different government lending institutions according to Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP—Baguio) authorities.

National, provincial, municipal and barangay road damages tallied a total of P7.8 million according to Baguio-Benguet district Engineer Teodoro Dulay.

Dulay also said, the Halsema Mountain Highway (Mountain Trail) was opened to vehicular traffic Monday while the Kennon road was opened Tuesday. Naguilian road was opened to traffic as of Saturday last week.

Meanwhile, a freight truck loaded with vegetables fell over kilometer 57 at Atok Monday while trying to rush supplies for Baguio and Manila.

Mayor Tomas Yap said the truck is a complete wreck. The driver escaped injury.