

**Typhoon leaves two dead, millions in damages.** Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. XXXI, Vol. 33 issued on August 27, 1978. The article is located at pages 1 and 17. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera Studies Collection of the University of the Philippines-Baguio Library.

# Typhoon leaves two dead, millions in damages

## \* \* \* BAGUIO MIDLAND Courier

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BAGUIO CITY – Typhoon Miding claimed two persons and damaged property, crops and infrastructure projects worth millions of pesos after battering the city, Benguet and nearby provinces for two days.

The two victims, Mila de Castro and her younger sister, Renee Wee, were buried alive together with Mila's husband, Philip de Castro, when their house was crushed by a landslide along Military Cut-off Wednesday night.

The de Castros' three-month old child, Jason, miraculously escaped injury as he was held by his father who was pinned by debris.

About 170 families from the City Camp Lagoon had to be evacuated to the evacuation centers at the City Camp Youth Center, Motor Pool and the St. Vincent gym as the water in the lagoon rose to a level never reached before.

Other families in Pacdal, Phil-Am compound, Military Cut-Off, Ledesma, Jungle Town and other areas of the city also abandoned their houses due to landslides.

The Buyagan swamp in La Trinidad, Benguet was also swoln submerging many houses and flooding the San Jose housing project where many families had to be evacuated.

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## TYPHOON . . . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

Two women, two infants and an old man who were marooned in a house in the middle of the Buyagan swamp were rescued by volunteers after almost five hours of rescue work due to the strong current. Rescue workers used bancas requested by DZWT and the SLU rescue group.

Bancas had also to be used at the City Camp lagoon as many families were not able to immediately vacate their houses when the lagoon's water rose during the night.

Baguio and Benguet were isolated when the Kennon,

Naguilian, Halsema and Ambuklao roads were closed due to landslides along the way. The city was also in total darkness as there was a power shut-off.

Rescue operations at the Military Cut-off were hampered by lack of equipment and electricity. It was after several hours when rescue volunteers from the BCI led by Engr. Lorico Espejo, the Benguet INP, OCR-PI-CAG, JHAB and other groups were able to get the bodies of the victims.

Philip de Castro, who was pinned with rubbles, was given food, blanket and medicine through a hole by Nars Padilla, one of the first to arrive at the scene of the

accident.

Volunteer groups assisted the PNRRC headed by Ms. Violeta Luga in the distribution of relief goods to the evacuees in the various evacuation centers.

Mayor Luis L. Lardizabal and Benguet governor Ben Palispis in cooperation with the military-police and other government agencies coordinated the rescue and evacuation operations in the city and Benguet.

Mayor Lardizabal and governor Palispis directed the city and district engineers to make available vehicles for the rescue and evacuation of victims.

District engineer Santiago G. Paragas ordered his men in the fields to immediately clear the roads of any land-

slides so vehicles could pass.

Only two local radio stations, MPBC's DZWT-WR and DZWX, were on during the typhoon giving the latest information on the situation in the city and the province. The radio stations also appealed for donations and help.

