

Landslide claims four, 5 persons still missing. Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. LIII, No.47 issued on November 19, 2000. The article is located at pages 6 and 12. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera Studies Collection of the University of the Philippines-Baguio Library.

Landslide claims four, 5 persons still missing

A huge landslide caused by the heavy rains of typhoons Reming and Senyang in Tuyangan, Kabugao, Apayao at around 4 p.m. last Nov. 8, resulted to the death of four persons, injury of five others. Five others remain missing.

Regional Director Vic Tomazar of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) revealed that the rescue and

recovery operations for the missing persons is still in full blast but survival is dim and that the rescue teams in the area will downgrade their operations in the next fifteen days.

The fatalities of the worst landslide in the province were identified as Junard Bruno, Dencio Apilit, Delmar Alipit and Fernando Basang, all of Tuyangan

barangay.

The missing persons were identified as Serapio Basang, Richard Sawiran, Debra Apilit, Jundy Basang and Babylyn Basang.

Tomacruz named the injured persons as Jim Bruno, Sherilyn Basang, Marciano Apilit, Benigno Sawiran and Stad Sinag.

It can be recalled that in the afternoon of November 8, 2000

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at the height of typhoon Senyang, a mountain having a height of almost 600 meters and a length of 300 meters suddenly eroded and buried the victims who are mostly students who were on their way home to Tuyangan and that the eroded area created a natural dam in the area.

Director Tomazar pointed out that the soil in the area is loose and that the condition

of the eroded mountain was aggravated by the strong winds and heavy rains of the last two typhoons that visited our region.

It is also possible that the eroded area might have cracks where the water would have seeped in and forced the soil to erode due to its weight.

According to Tomazar, he was informed by Apayao governor Batarra Laoat that the eroded area is near the Agbulo hydroelectric power project which might be contributory to the said erosion.

What is hampering the rescue operations is the fact that there is no road going to the area and that the means of traveling is by foot where rescuers have to hike six to eight hours just to reach the accident site.

Tomazar added that rescue equipment could not be brought to the site since it would be risky and it might endanger the lives of the rescuers.

The regional disaster coordinating council is closely monitoring the rescue operations in the area and that they had already received 100 cavans of rice, P200,000 for the rescue operations and P125,000 cash assistance for the victims.

— Dexter A. See