

Landslides displace 30 families in Benguet. Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. LVII, No.38 issued on September 19, 2004. The article is located at pages 18 and 38. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera Studies Collection of the University of the Philippines Baguio Library.

Landslides displace 30 families in Benguet

Huge landslides triggered by a series of typhoons have displaced about 30 families in Kibungan, Benguet, with authorities warning of a bigger catastrophe in view of cracks appearing in the mountainside atop the affected area.

No one was hurt or killed but most of the villagers' houses were destroyed, some to-

tally. Several rice-fields were also affected.

Oscar Paris, officer-in-charge of the Benguet chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross, said concerned agencies led by Department of Social Welfare and Development under Juana Bannawe rushed relief goods to the area.

Paris said the landslides occurred in

sitios Poen and Pingew, 30 minutes on foot from Barangay Palina proper in Kibungan.

Paris said the concerned agencies would meet again this week to assess the situation before it decides on a course of action to address the plight of the affected villagers.

Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa has urged the immediate

relocation of the villagers, saying his office was willing to provide assistance in working out for any proposed relocation area.

"The bottom line is to relocate them immediately so they could rebuild their homes," he said.

It was learned that most of the affected families have been accommodated by their

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relatives or neighbors who were not affected by the landslides.

Paris said a multi-agency team comprised of Engr. Benigno Espejo of the Mines and Geo-

sciences Bureau, Juana Banawe of the DSWD, Kibungan mayor Murphy Paa-yas and himself inspected the area the other week and noticed big cracks near the mountainside directly overlooking the village.

He said the cracks which are at the sides of Mt. Kilikili, suspected to be dormant volcano, appeared unstable and may trigger another landslide. --

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