

7 killed in landslides in Benguet

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MANILA - Seven persons were killed in separate landslides in a town in Benguet province on Thursday due to heavy and continuous rains from tropical depression "Pepeng."

"We have confirmed 7 casualties... 5 from Sto. Niño, 2 sa Caponga," said Vice Mayor Armando Lauro of Tublay town in Benguet.

Two brothers who were small-scale gold miners were killed in a landslide in Barangay Caponga in Tublay town in Benguet. The two were identified as 14-year-old Gilbert and his 16-year-old brother Hector Carpio.

The two reportedly went gold panning Thursday morning but did not come back, prompting a search for the two.

Gilbert was found at the top of a mountain while his brother was found near a road.

"Hindi namin inaasahan itong nangyari, sino ba naman ang gustong mangyari sa anak nila," moaned Berting Carpio, father of the fatalities.

Meanwhile, 5 persons were killed after a landslide hit their house in Garcia Village in Sitio Sto. Niño, Barangay Ambassador also in Tublay town.

The fatalities were identified as Deborah Boyayao, Milenya Supla, Shandell Boyayao, Rita Nalog, and Jerry Boyayao.

Meanwhile, several towns in Benguet province were reported to have been isolated after a road in Tublay was blocked due to a landslide. Kilometer 16 in Tublay was hit by a landslide due to the heavy and continuous rains.
- from a report of Jermaine Beltran, ABS-CBN News Baguio