

## Storm leaves 9 dead; 531 families roofless

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Typhoon Ineng has left the Cordillera with nine persons dead and 531 families evacuated from their homes due to landslides, mostly in Benguet and swelling rivers in other parts of the region.

Benguet Provincial Police Office reported on Aug. 22, the bodies of Nole Lubante Jr. and his partner Nova Mae Tuazon were recovered at *Sitio Cotcot*, *Bulalacao*, *Mankayan*. The vic-

tims' house was destroyed by a landslide.

Rescue is also ongoing for the pocket miners in *Taneg*, *Mankayan* believed to be inside the seven shanties that were washed out by flood.

In *Atok*, a landslide hit the house and injured *Juanito Catubing* and *Regina Santos* of *Barangay Topdac*. Their one-year-old

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## STORM . . .

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child *Jury* died while their other child was injured.

The *BPPO* also reported siblings *Erwin Celo*, 26 years old and *Markin*, 21 years old from *Itoigon* were killed when the tent they were staying in as road construction workers was buried in a huge landslide at *Sitio Takayan*, *Gambang*, *Bakun* at around 4 a.m. of Aug. 21. The bodies were later recovered and were brought to *Itoigon*.

In *Buguias*, the body of a farmer was retrieved from his shanty that was covered with loose soil at his farm at *Sitio Labayan*, *Barangay Bangao*. Police said the incident happened early morn-



ing of Aug. 21.

At 5 p.m. of the same day, Glen Bal-dasan, 27 years old, a resident of Geweng, Cabiten, Mankayan, was caught in a land-slide while on his way to meet his wife, re-sulting in his death.

On Aug. 22 at 12:30 a.m., Michael Martin Lagasan, 59, of Comillas North Cervantes, Ilocos Sur was trapped in his ve-hicle that was buried in a landslide along Palatong, Mankayan.

The Office of the Civil Defense-Cordillera reported another landslide in *Sitio Tala*, Barangay Namatec, Sabangan involving a mother and her two sons. Around 4 a.m. of the same day, a huge vol-ume of mud cascaded towards their home covering the victims. Nine-year-old Lykher Mayon incurred head injuries while Ycher, 10 years old, was pro-nounced dead on ar-ri-val.

Five people trapped in an island along the Abra River in Bucay were found and rescued. Two per-sons were also report-ed by the Abra Pro-vincial Police Office to have been swept by the Abra River. One of the men was rescued while the other is still missing. Search and rescue operations are ongoing.

In Kalinga, four persons were rescued after being trapped in a quarry site in *Sitio Tolyang*, Calanan, Tabuk City.

Around 86 fami-lies living near the Chico River in Tabuk City, were rescued due to the unprece-dented rise in the wa-ter of the river caused by the blocked main gate of the National Irrigation Adminis-tration, which is now under rehabilitation. They were brought to the various evacu-ation centers, ac-cording to OCD-CAR Information Officer Frances Ivy Carasi.

A total of 531 families were evacuated with Tabuk City having the most number. A total of 120 families are affected and are now seeking shelter at the health center and their respective relatives.

The SN Aboitiz Power Benguet reported that the Ambuklao Dam has reached an elevation of 751.75 meters above sea level (masl), almost reaching the maximum level of 752 masl.

Binga Dam's spillway gate was also opened by 14.5 meters after reaching 573.13 masl, which is near its maximum of 575 masl.

Power outages were experienced region-wide due to fallen posts and landslide affected areas. Power restoration is ongoing. – *Ofelia C. Empian*