

**83 dead, 45 missing in Ompong's wrath.** Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. LXXI, No. 38 issued on September 23, 2018. The article is located at pages 1 and 38. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera Studies Collection of the University of the Philippines Baguio Library.

# 83 dead, 45 missing in Ompong's wrath

Typhoon Ompong's brief unwelcome stay brought about huge damage in the agricultural sector reaching to P4.1 billion, 83 individuals dead, 45 missing, and 75 injured as of 6 p.m. of Sept. 21.

In update released by the Regional Disaster Risk

Reduction Management Council, of the 83 deaths, bulk is in Benguet with 64 deaths (59 in Itogon, one in Tuba, one in Kabayan, and three in La Trinidad); Baguio City with 12; Kalinga with one; and Mountain Province with six.

The 45 missing individ-

uals are recorded in Benguet with 42 in Itogon and Baguio City with three. Eleven of the 75 injured persons are still recovering in various hospitals.

Emergency responders at the operation center in Barangay Tuding, Itogon received a refreshing news

on Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 when two of the declared missing miners went to the center and the Barangay Hall of Ucab, Itogon to have their names delisted.

Some of the earlier declared missing individuals were also scrapped from the list as family members

came one by one in the operation center stating the whereabouts of the supposed missing men.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing in various affected areas.

In Itogon, Office of the Civil Defense-

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**THE WRATH OF TYPHOON OMPONG** – A huge landslide that hit a mining village in Ucab, Itogon, Benguet at the height of Typhoon Ompong left 59 dead and 42 others missing as of Sept. 21, 6 p.m. Authorities reported that the death toll in the Cordillera due to landslides has reached 83 while 45 others are missing. With many villages still isolated due to landslides, the Philippine Air Force has been conducting aerial relief operations in Benguet while public and private donors are reaching out to those affected by the super typhoon (More images of the Typhoon Ompong aftermath on pages 14 and 15). -- Harley Palangchao



*(from page 1)*

Cordillera Director Ruben Carandang said they would be halting the operations during heavy rains for the safety of the search team.

Carandang said they would be lessening the number of men to work in the area since backhoes are already at the site to help in the search.

Earlier, close to 500 men from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and volunteer groups helped in the search as there are no roads leading to the area for the backhoes to pass through.

The typhoon also caused 24 major landslides, rock slides, 17 flooding incidents, two sinking incidents, and three road slips or washed out roads.

In the agriculture sector, P4.1B worth of damage was reported, and validated by the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera.

Ifugao has the highest listed damage with P1.4B, followed by Kalinga with P1.1B, and Mountain Province with P768.9 million worth of damage. The three provinces listed corn crops to have the incurred the highest damage.

Apayao recorded P498.9M worth of damage with rice having the highest damage; Benguet reported P179M worth damage, bulk is on high value crops; and Abra with P34.9M worth of damage mostly on high value crops.

Damage to fisheries reached P22.9M in the region while damage to irrigation facilities cost P215,000.

So far, there are 44,207 families or 178,277 individuals affected in the region.

The OCD reported that there are still 3,485 families or 12,585 persons in evacuation centers.

Four local government units declared their areas under states of calamity: Ifugao, Kalinga, Moun-

tain Province, and Apayao.

Earlier, Abra and Benguet already declared states of calamity due to the effects of the southwest monsoon that battered the region last month.

Department of Social Welfare and Development-Cordillera OIC Director Janet Armas said they have served most of the affected families although she acknowledged that there are still areas that remain unserved.

"Hopefully their LGUs were able to serve them, but for those unserved areas we appeal that they group yourselves and contact their LGUs who will coordinate with us, so we could be able to serve them," Armas said.

She said the DSWD would be working with various agencies for the provision of livelihood assistance to affected families, especially those displaced.

Armas also reminded groups that would want to donate to affected families that their office in No. 40 North Drive, Baguio City is open to receive donations.

She said most of the areas affected cannot be easily reached due to the terrain and current road situations.

"Our office is open for donations. They will be accounted properly, just specify where they want to bring the goods. We will be asking the military and volunteers to bring it to the areas they are intended for," Armas said.

She said individuals or groups could also bring their donations to the OCD-Cordillera office at Camp Allen, Baguio City. —  
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