

2 killed as tree collapses

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By Dan Toribio

A couple was killed after a big balete tree fell on their house in Sinunuc during a heavy downpour yesterday morning.

Three other houses and a store were also damaged.

The victims were identified as Nasser Sajili, 53 and his wife Nursilyn, 40. The couple's daughter Hadiya, 11, was injured.

Another child, Rakid Sajili, 15, escaped unhurt after he was able to run outside the house.

Relatives of the victims told newsmen that family members were home when the tree on the other side of the river suddenly collapsed and fell on top of their house.

Nursilyn was immediately killed after being pinned down by a big branch.

Rescuers from the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO,) the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP,) and residents found difficulty in retrieving Nasser whose legs were pinned down by the tree.

Rescuers successfully extricated Nasser after about four hours but the latter expired upon reaching the hospital.

Reports said that relatives earlier advised the couple to move out of their house after observing strange noises coming from the tree indicating that it was slowly being uprooted from the

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ground.

The death toll from heavy rains has risen to five with the death of the couple yesterday morning.(Dan Toribio)