

Four dead, three missing in Papua landslides

A fourth body was recovered from the scene of a landslide in the Perwakin Dok 5 area of Jayapura, Papua, on Sunday. The victim was identified as Deasy Nauw.

Jayapura Police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Alfred Papare said Deasy's was the fourth body to be recovered from the landslides that had struck several areas in the capital city of Papua province on Saturday night. Three others are still missing. "Hopefully the other victims will be found soon," Alfred said, as quoted by Antara.

The three fatalities whose bodies had been found earlier were identified as Ellias Sohilit, 24, and his wife Christina Umpenawany, 37, and a senior high school student, Kristin Youwen, 16. The bodies were taken to the Jayapura General Hospital.

The bodies of Ellias and Christina will be sent to their hometown of Ambon, Maluku for burial while Kristin will be buried in Jayapura.

The Perwakin is a steep mountainous area, which hampered rescue efforts.

The landslides happened after hours of heavy rain in Jayapura on Saturday, which caused flooding across the city. Mud and other materials were reportedly piled as high as 30 centimeters at the Papua gubernatorial office complex after the floods receded on Sunday.

Debris was also piled in front of the Papua Police headquarters, Papua People's Council building and other government offices.

The Papua administration deployed heavy equipment to clean the city's streets. "We provided heavy equipment for police and military officers who along with residents are clearing the streets," Papua provincial secretary Herry Dosinae said while visiting the landslide location.

Herry said the administration had asked state-owned electricity company PT PLN to suspend the electricity supply in the city to avoid accidents.

Meanwhile, heavy rain also inundated Klaten, Central Java, on Saturday for six hours, causing floods throughout the regency.

The floods were exacerbated by the Dengkeng River, which overflowed with run-off from the hilly areas of Mount Merapi. "The Dengkeng could not accommodate the water levels," head of the Semarang office of National Search and Rescue (Basarnas), Agus Haryono, said.

Agus said his agency had sent a rescue team from a post in Surakarta to flooded areas in Trucuk, Bayat, Kalikebo and Gantiwarno. He added that the agency had also prepared trucks, lifejackets and rubber boats if the team needed to evacuate residents.

As of Sunday, thousands of houses in Tangerang, Banten and Bekasi, West Java were still drowned in floodwaters due to heavy downpours on Saturday.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said rescue teams were still evacuating residents in the flooded areas.

"We badly need food, clothes and drinking water to be distributed to evacuees," Sutopo said.