

Death toll from Philippine storms rises to 712: govt

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MANILA — The death toll from two weeks of storms in the Philippines has risen to 712, according to national government figures released on Wednesday.

The number of people confirmed killed from tropical storm Parma, which dumped rain relentlessly on the northern Philippines for a week, was 375, the civil defence office said, up more than 60 from the previous day's assessment.

Parma first hit the Philippines' main island of Luzon on October 3 as a typhoon, then caused dozens of major landslides and widespread flooding as it pounded the area with rain.

It arrived exactly one week after tropical storm Ketsana caused the heaviest single day of rain on the nation's capital, Manila, in more than 40 years.

The death toll from Ketsana remained at 337, the civil defence office said Wednesday.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hB0Tm07NNtChnbCDAMk_U5s2njlw