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| **Mekong Delta begins relief work after being battered by heavy rains, winds**  HCMC – Authorities in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta are **mobilizing** personnel and funds to provide **relief** and rehabilitation after houses, **crops** and **dykes** were damaged by the impact of tropical storm Sinlaku in the last few days.  The country’s largest rice, fruit and seafood producer has seen thousands of houses and thousands of hectares of crops damaged by heavy rains and strong winds.  The storm weakened into a **tropical depression** after making **landfall** over the country’s north-central region on Sunday, according to authorities.  Bac Lieu Province received rains of 112-171mm between August 1 and 4, and many parts were **inundated**.  According to the local Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, Search and Rescue, 87 houses were damaged as were standing crops.  Bac Lieu Authorities have mobilized relief workers to help affected people repair their homes and stabilise their live.  In Soc Trang Province, the roofs of 270 houses and three class rooms were blown off, one net house was **flattened**, 406ha of rice was destroyed and one person was injured between July 31 and August 4.  Ca Mau province reported on Tuesday that 49 houses, 40 large trees and 130ha of banana were flattened and the roofs of 375 houses were blown away.  A river bank was eroded, damaging four houses and 20m of road.  In Kien Giang Province, 548 houses, office buildings and schools lost their roofs or were flattened or inundated.  Strong winds destroyed more than 1,340ha of banana in U Minh Thuong District, causing losses of around VND7 billion.  Some 200ha of **summer-autumn rice** in Kien Luong District have been inundated.  Nguyen Huynh Trung, head of the Kien Giang Steering Committee fo Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, Search and Rescue, said local authorities have mobilised the military, police and local forces to help affected people.  The [personnel] have help affected households build temporary shelters and move to safe areas.  Localities around the province have provided funds to help affected households.  Strong winds and waves have **eroded** a 700-metre section of the province’s western sea dyke in An Minh District’s Van Khanh Tay Commune.  The province used cajuput tree stumps and soil to fill the eroded section, but strong winds and waves washed it away.  Trung said the province would fill the section using rocks in the next few days to prevent further erosion. The work is estimated to cost VND10 billion.  In Tra Vinh Province, nearly 300 houses and thousands of hectares of rice and other crops were damaged, and hundreds of metres of dyke were eroded.  Local authorities, the military and other relief workers have helped affected households repair the damage to houses and move affected families to safety.  The province’s natural disaster support funds has provided VND2 million to each family whose house has been damaged.  In the city, 12 houses have been destroyed and 88 others are damaged.  More bad weather in the city is forecast in the next few days, especially between August 6 and 8, by the city’s Centre for Hydro-Meteorology Forecasting. | **Mobilizing:** huy động.  **Relief:** help, assistance.  **Crops:** the produce of plants, vegetables and fruit.  **Dykes/**daik: đê, kè.  **tropical depression:** áp thấp nhiệt đới.  **Landfall:** an approach to.  **Inundated:** cover with water.  **Flattened:** bằng phẳng.  **summer-autumn rice:** lúa hè thu.  **Eroded:** xói mòn. |