



CITY NEWS

Grandma dies as LASG demolishes 5000 shops at Jakande Estate

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

A 70-year-old grandmother died on Tuesday in the aftermath of the demolition of her shop, alongside 5000 others at the Jakande Estate, Isolo, Lagos.

Bulldozers of the Lagos State Building Investment Corporation and the Ministry of Environment had on Tuesday demolished "makeshift shops," which defaced the estate built by former governor Lateef Jakande.

The Lagos State government

had notified the shop owners of its intention to demolish the shops, prompting them to storm the Lagos State House of Assembly with a plea to Governor Akinwunmi Ambode to stay action. Their plea was, however, fruitless as bulldozers rolled into the estate to pull down the shops.

A witness, Baba Samson, said the septugenarian, widely known in the estate as Madam Ishola, and of Block 127, fell after the shock, holding onto her heart, before she gave up the ghost.

Samson added that "The shop had been her only

means of livelihood since her husband died."

Residents of the estate stood around in groups lamenting that the action of the state government had rendered hundreds of people jobless. City News gathered that to many of the affected persons, the shops were their only means of survival.

A resident, Kayode Adesina, who spoke amidst tears, said the action was "untimely", considering the present economic situation in the country.

Another resident, Julie Nwokocho, said the

government gave them a week to vacate the shops. "They said they want to beautify the estate. They came with over seven bulldozers and dozens of military men. And here I am, with children in the university. After my job was stopped, it has been from this shop they demolished that we have been feeding," she cried.

The mother of four added, "We have gone to the Lagos State House of Assembly to register our protest. We have also been to Baba Jakande's house. I am confused and I don't know what to do."

According to another

resident, Damilola Agbaje, "the exercise carried out by government is not in our favour. It is not good that the Lagos State government has continued to make life miserable for us. We are not in a happy mood at all."

Women and youths of the area were sighted wearing long faces as scavengers had a field day carrying metals from the demolished structures.

Although some shop owners had attempted to block the demolition, they were prevented by fierce looking military personnel who came with the Lagos State officials.

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