

# Octogenarian, others die in Sokoto windstorm

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■ One of the affected houses



■ Bello

A windstorm that destroyed 70 houses in eight communities in Kambama, Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State, also claimed three lives.

Those who died include 82-year-old Malama Fatima; 45-year-old housewife Hauwau, popularly known as Damme, and five-year-old Bello. All the deceased were trapped inside collapsed structures at their respective residences following the havoc wrecked by the windstorm.

Aliyu Danda, grandson of the late Fatima, said the storm started on Sunday 14th May at about 10pm.

“When the wind began, all of us, including our grandmother, went into our rooms. After some time, we heard a loud noise from a collapsed structure and she was trapped. We pulled her out but due to old age, she could not survive the impact,” he recounted.

In the case of Hauwau, her husband, Makau Sarkin Aski of Gidan Hassan, explained: “When the storm started, I hurried my three children inside as we were all sitting outside the house. Five of us - my wife, the children and I, took shelter in a room. We sat down in silence as the storm shook the entire roof, trying to blow it off. We prayed to Allah for protection. Then after a lot of shaking and noise, the whole roof was blown away leaving us in the open while the storm continued,” he recalled.

The bereaved husband continued: “After sometime, the wall carved in, burying my wife and three children while I stood confused and uncertain of what to do next.

“Later, I summoned courage and started pulling my wife out of the rubbles. My son came in and we tried to pull her out but could not. My son went to call our neighbours who later pulled her out lifeless.”

For Ladan Aliyu, his five-year-old grandson Bello was playing with other children behind their house, a day after the storm, when a wall collapsed on him.

“All efforts to save the child proved abortive as he was lifeless by the time he was pulled out of the ruins,” he disclosed.