

4 dead, many feared trapped as 3-storey building collapses in Lagos

Eugene Agha Lagos

Four persons have been confirmed dead in the three-storey building which collapsed in Lagos on Friday by emergency officials.

A yet-to-be-ascertained number of persons are also feared trapped in the collapsed house which tilted before it eventually came down around noon.

The ill-fated house is located along Oye Sonuga Street, opposite Oye Roundabout, Isolo Road, Mushin.

This is coming barely two weeks after some women were rescued from a sinking storey building in the Mende area of the state.

Daily Trust Saturday reports that the latest incident threw many residents close to the building into fear.

Our correspondent learnt that the house had started showing signs of distress three days ago, but the occupants did not relocate.

Sources said those rescued by neighbours were an old man of about 70 years and a child of about three.

It could not be confirmed if more persons were still trapped under the debris at the time of filing this report.

The Lagos Territorial Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in the South-West, Ibrahim Farinloye, confirmed that one adult male and a child were rescued by members of the community, before the arrival of responders.

He said the structure is located between four buildings, consisting of several flats and that one of the

flats was being used as a nightclub.

"The building collapsed tilting forward and there was a report that there is a septic tank in front of the collapsed structure. The building has also been giving signs in the last three days, specifically this week Tuesday, but the residents and neighbours ignored the signs," he said.

The entire area has been condoned off by policemen from Mushin Division to prevent urchins from stealing from those affected.

Lagos State Police Public

Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, said the police are also there to provide security to responders which include NEMA, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and fire service officials.

Also, the Permanent Secretary of LASEMA, Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, said "Two people who were trapped inside the building have been rescued and treated. However, we have been informed two females that are occupants of the building are still missing. Search and Rescue operation is ongoing."