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# ENL Accident: House Committee Expresses Shock

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House of Representatives Committee on Marine Transport has expressed deep shock over last Friday's accident at the ENL Terminal in Apapa Lagos.

The committee, while reacting to the accident in which three dockworkers were said to have lost their lives, said it was unfortunate that the situation could not be brought under control before it became uncontrollable leading to deaths. In a statement made available to journalists at the weekend and signed by its chairman, Ifeanyi Ogwuanyi, it expressed condolences to the families of the deceased dockworkers. "We are saddened that lives were lost and we commiserate with families of those who died as a result of the crane accident. The committee promises to step into the circumstances that led to the death of the dockworkers with a view to ensuring that operations at our seaports meet international standard".

"We are aware that the present dispensation of port concession has brought certain challenges into the fore and also called certain operational practices to question."

The accident, which snowballed into death and wanton destruction of properties is a test-case for private sector participation in port operations. It is also a confirmation of the need to continue to fine-tune the current system.

The committee in the statement also acknowledged the various concerns that have been expressed at different quarters about the present system." The House of Representatives and indeed the National Assembly will not fold its arm and watch innocent Nigerians lose their precious lives in avoidable circumstances.

"We will soon invite all the parties including the terminal operators, the workers union, the Nigerian Ports Authority and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)."

"In the meantime, we appeal for calm, especially among our dockworkers considering the fact that our sea ports are the gateways to our economy. Once again, we commiserate with the families of the deceased, the union and sympathise with all those who lost things as a result of the mayhem," he said.

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