

Jonathan picks Jibril, Oghiadomhe, Abati

•18 aides take oath of office today

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TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM

N150.00

18 dead, many trapped in Lagos building collapse

■ Couple die on first day in house

■ Landlord's wife among the dead

By Joke Kujenya, Jude Isiguzo and Miriam Ndiakanwu

ANOTHER building went down in Lagos on Tuesday night.

One of the men on rescue mission told our reporter at about 10.30p.m. that no fewer than 18 bodies had been recovered and taken to Agoro mosque in Idumota, Lagos Island.

About 40 people, including children, rescued from the debris were injured - some of them seriously.

Some residents were wailing from under the rubble, as rescue operation continued, more than 10 hours after the four-storey building collapsed.

Neighbours said house No 6, Mogaji Close, Idumota, went down during the rain, which began at about 8.00p.m.

The building was said to have been erected about 10 years ago. It is joined by a fragile platform to the next house, No 4, where the landlord's wife, who died in the incident, was said to have had a plastic shop.

A trapped woman was crying: *E jo, e tete gbe wa, o tin re mi* (Please, get us out of here quickly, I'm getting tired ... We are many here.) Her voice was faint.

The whereabouts of the landlord, identified simply as Eletuwasho of Lagos (a.k.a. Tao Let), was unknown.

Rescuers comprised neighbours, the Nigerian Red Cross, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), National

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•The collapsed building ... yesterday

PHOTOS: ABIODUN WILLIAMS

‘ Please, get us out of here quickly; I’m getting tired ... We are many here.’

Boko Haram attacks soldiers, police station

■ 50 suspects held ■ Four soldiers injured

STORY ON
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•A neighbour, Muritala

•SENATE OKAYS OKONJO-IWEALA, AGANGA, NNAJI, HALIRU, OTHERS P2

18 dead, many trapped in Lagos collapsed building

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Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Lagos State Physical Development Authority (LASPHYDA), Lagos State Ambulance Services (LASEMBUS) and many others.

A resident, Mr. Adeogun, who was said to have travelled overseas, was lucky. His wife, Iya Risi, and his two sons were rescued alive with their mother, the residents said.

Another resident, Mr. Tajudeen, popularly called Coach, leader of the Community Development Association (CDA), Idumota was getting set for a good night sleep with members of his family when he was suddenly hit by one of the falling pillars.

His wife, a witness said, suffered broken bones while she was being pulled out. She is in a coma. 'Coach', who was dragged out of the building around midnight, was injured. He is admitted at a private hospital.

A new couple, Mr and Mrs Taofik, moved into the house on the fateful day. They died.

Their remains were pulled out last night.

Another resident, Mr. Oluwa, was trapped under the ruins with two of his children – a boy and a girl. Rescuers pull the boy out but the girl died.

Another woman, Mama Ahmed, who neighbours described as a very helpful and pleasant, was under the debris with her husband and four children. She died at the time she was being rescued but her husband and the children survived.

Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development Mr. Toyin Ayinde said: "We got the information as early as 7.30-8.00am yesterday, and we immediately deployed our men from the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and LASPHYDA, to the scene. The building is not under construction. It is an old building. And it is one of those listed as decrepit and the owner had been advised to vacate the building because it was identified as unsuitable for habitation. The standard rule for now is that the owner of any collapsed structure forfeits such properties to the government.

Lagos Police spokesman Sam Jinadu, a Deputy Superintendent, said policemen were deployed immediately they received the distress call to join the rescue efforts and ensure that looters did not take advantage of the situation to carry out criminal activities.

The building, it was learnt was



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MANY houses old and new look like they are made of cardboard and materials.

An elder in the landlords' materials and

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built about 10 erty develop Elelu.

Residents sa of the buildin standard mate used for its co

Businesses ar were stalled in the incident.

A survivor, C is a trader, sai with his sister

ACN govern

GOVERNORS on the platform of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) have agreed to pay the N18,000 minimum wage, it was gathered last night.

From Onyer