

•One of the affected buildings being demolished by Lagos State government...  
yesterday. PHOTO: SOLOMON ADEOLA

# More bodies recovered from collapsed building

**T**WO more bodies, including that of the architect in charge of the twin four-storey building that collapsed at Muri Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, were recovered yesterday.

The recovery, according to the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) brought the death toll to seven. The agency rescued 25 persons alive from the rubble.

The Police, Army, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps NSCDC, and Lagos State Building Control Agency (LSBCA) worked through Monday night to save more lives.

It was learnt that the other survivors were rescued between 11pm (Monday) and 5am (Tuesday) before the operation was suspended and resumed by 7am.

Although unconfirmed sources claimed some of the victims that were rescued alive passed on at the hospitals they were taken to, LASE-

## •Govt demolishes house

By Precious Igbonwelundu

MA's General Manager Femi Oki-Osayintolu said he was aware of only the seven bodies recovered from the site.

"I have no idea if any of the victims died at the hospital; all I can confirm to you is that at the end of operations at the site, a total of seven bodies were recovered and 25 people rescued from the collapsed building are receiving treatment at various hospitals," Osayintolu said.

Prior to the recovery of the architect, identified as Wale, at about 6pm, there was a display of bitter emotions by his siblings, who *The Nation* gathered had been at the scene of the incident since dawn.

The sisters, who were miffed and appeared lost in thought, had refused to leave the premises until they were certain of their brother's

whereabout.

Deeply grieved, one of the women narrated how they have gone to all the hospitals where victims were kept without a trace of their brother.

"How do I explain this situation? What do I tell Wale's wife who has a two-month old baby? How do I even go about this? God, please help me out of this situation," the eldest of the women sobbed.

Although it took the agencies over 24 hours to locate Wale, more than 12 hours after the other victim had been recovered, they did not quit the search because some of the survivors had insisted that he was trapped in the building.

They also insisted that the architect was about giving the man who supplied labourers for the decking of the building from Ibadan money be-



The late Architect Wale's vehicle.

fore the building caved in. With the discovery of the man at about 5am, the agencies intensified their search for Wale, whose white BMW was still parked at the same spot he left it yesterday.

Meanwhile, LSBCA has demolished the buildings, just as the uncompleted buildings before the demolished structures have been recommended for testing.

It was learnt that it was the same contractors who built the collapsed structure that handled the other edifices beside them.

A state government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the buildings collapsed as a result of sub-standard materials.

## Cholera kills one more person in Lagos