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Eight die in Lagos boat mishap

Posted by: Precious Igbonwelundu, Staff Correspondent in News 14 hours ago

EIGHT persons died yesterday in a boat mishap in Lagos.

Two weeks ago, a canoe mishap claimed some lives in the Festac area of the state.

Yesterday's mishap it was learnt, occurred on the Ebute-Ero-Ikorodu waterway. There were 21 passengers on board.

It was gathered that the disaster occurred between 6pm and 6:30pm as passengers were rushing back to Ikorodu from Ebute Ero.

An eyewitness who spoke to our reporter on the telephone said the boat was overloaded.

"I think there was a crack and after hitting a substance it opened and water gushed in and the boat sank.

"Usually, during peak periods, the boat operators carry more than their capacity and the life jackets they use are either expired or not original," said the witness.

But National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Southwest spokesman, Ibrahim Farinloye confirmed that eight people died.

He said: "According to first information, 28 boarded the boat.

"The incident happened around 6pm but the information reached rescuers around 8pm."

Also yesterday, no fewer than seven persons sustained injuries following the collapse of a two-storey building in Lagos.

The building, which is located at Toyota Street, off Kunsela Street, Elegunshi Lekki, was said to be under construction.

Eyewitnesses said but for the fact that the labourers were all working in front, the building which caved-in partially from the rear would have resulted to fatalities.

It was learnt that the injured were treated by officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) and discharged immediately, since the injuries were minor.

At the time of filing this report, the scene has been condoned off, with all the workers told to vacate the site.

Officials of the state's Fire Service, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and the Police were on ground to manage the situation.

When contacted, Director, State Fire Service, Rasaq Fadipe confirmed the incident but emphasised that no life was lost.

"Some persons sustained minor injuries and have been treated and discharged. It was a partial building collapse and it happened at the rear."

"Those who got injured was as a result of people running for safety after they heard the noise caused by the collapse.

"The premises has been condoned off and for now, we do not know the cause of the collapse," he said.

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