Rainstorm kills eight month-old, family trapped



Ozolua Uhakheme, Assistant Editor (Arts)







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It was a midnight horror for people of Sobe Community in Owan West local government area of Edo state as heavy rainstorm claimed the life of an eight month-old child, Harunah Mustapha leaving a family of six trapped under the rubble of a collapsed building. The incident happened on Oke Street, Sobe around midnight.

According to eyewitness account, the people on the street were woken by loud sound caused by the fallen wall only to discover that young Harunah was hit by the wall and died.

The witness said the collapsed walls fell on the room where Mr Mustapha and his children were sleeping.

The Public Relation Officer, Edo State Security Network in the community, Sunday Adesanya, said they received a distress call on the collapsed building at about 11pm while on patrol. He said they rushed there and later called the police who evacuated the survivors to the hospital for treatment.

In her condolence message to the family of Mustapha and Sobe community, Edo State Commissioner for Arts, Culture, Tourism and Diaspora Affairs, Dr Uyi-Oduwa Malaka, expressed sadness over the loss of Haruna, the only son of his parents.

Dr Malaka said: "I will encourage you, Mr Mustapha, to be strong at this trying moment of life, and accept the sad loss as the will of God.

"The rest of the family needs you now more than ever before. So, please be strong for them as well as for yourself. I deeply empathise with the delicate little daughter left to you by God, and pray that God will give you the fortitude to weather this storm," she added.

Rainstorms and downpours, she said, have lately become challenging the world over and it was threatening homes and livelihoods. "We must continue to find ways to curtail Mother Nature for our collective welfare," she noted.