

Three dead, seven injured in Lagos mosque collapse



Evelyn Osagie May 27, 2024



Three persons were yesterday confirmed dead and seven injured in a collapsed mosque on Yusuf Street, Mushin, Lagos State.

Men of the Nigerian Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Lagos Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) were on ground at Maheenat Mosque to rescue the victims.

LASEMA said five people were rescued and that only one person died. But residents and eye-witness accounts disputed the figure. They said no fewer than seven people died while over 10 were injured.

According to an eyewitness, the mosque collapsed when the Muslim worshippers were observing Ashir. The middle aged man, who spoke with *The Nation*, said the incident occurred when the driver of an excavator working very close to the mosque unknowingly hit the foundation of the holy house and brought down the one-storey edifice.

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Efforts were ongoing to bring out trapped individuals from the rubbles. But, a girl of about 10 years old was brought out dead.

One of the survivors, Adeniji Muniru, said: “We were almost at the end of the solat, when we heard a very loud sound. Before we could do anything, the building came down on us and everyone ran for safety. About 30 of us managed to escape from the rubbles while others were still trapped.

“A 10-year-old girl was brought out dead. I thank God for his love. I just had a minor fracture on my leg. It was divine intervention.”

Another survivor, who failed to disclose his name, said with the aid of the rescue mission, he was able to get out unhurt.

The Permanent Secretary, LASEMA, Femi Osanyintolu, in a statement, said a search-and-rescue was taking place under his supervision. He listed other emergency responders at the scene to include the Police, Lagos State Ambulance Service, and Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service.

The Public Relations Officer of LASEMA, Nosa Okunbor, added: “Our men are on ground. Rescue mission is ongoing. That’s all I can say for now.”

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