

Ikoyi building: Corpses ready for identification by families, says LASG

•Says death toll now 38

Bola Badmus | Lagos

LAGOS State government on Friday said dead bodies recovered from the Ikoyi collapsed building are ready for identification and therefore called on families of the deceased to go to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) Yaba for identification of the bodies of their loved ones.

The state government said 38 bodies had been recovered so far from the collapsed building as rescue operation entered Day Four on Friday, while family members had submitted 32 names of

those still missing.

Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, while giving an update to newsmen, said the bodies would be ready for identification from 4pm on Friday at the IDH, Yaba.

Omotoso, who addressed a press conference in the company with the Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Tayo Bamgbose-Martins and Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, said an autopsy would be carried out on the corpses

before releasing them to their families.

He said the autopsy was important because the law says that whenever there is death as a result of such incidents like the collapsed building, an autopsy must be done before the body is released.

The commissioner also denied reports that the rescue operation team at the collapsed building stopped the search and rescue work on Thursday.

He said work was still ongoing and would continue until the government could account for everybody inside

the building at time of its collapse and also certify that nobody is left behind in the rubble.

He said: "So far, we have recorded 38 dead bodies. And as you know, we have nine survivors. Some of the bodies are ready for identification. So, people can go to IDH, Yaba as from 4pm to identify the bodies of their loved ones.

"For bodies that may be very difficult to identify, we are going to be conducting DNA tests for such bodies to be identified. There are rules for giving bodies to people."