

news

Floods of fury

Two die as floods paralyse Lagos

Temitayo Famutimi

TRAGEDY struck in the New Garage area, Bariga, Lagos on Thursday as the torrential rains in the city brought down a section of a building and its walls, killing one person and injuring another.

The wall of one of the buildings on No. 38/40 Shogbamu Street, New Garage, Bariga Local Council Development Area, Lagos and its fence collapsed into an adjoining building on No. 2, Community Street.

The debris from the two collapsed structures fell onto the adjoining storey building and killed a 22-year-old son of the landlord, Hammed Shotuminu.

It was learnt that Shotuminu, a carpenter, who was sleeping alongside his friend, Biola Adesanya, on the same bed died on the spot when the collapsing structures fell on him. Adesanya, however, escaped with head and arm injuries.

It was learnt that Adesanya, who barely escape from the collapsed debris contacted Shotuminu's father to inform him about the incident.

A neighbour, Bisi Odubango, told *The PUNCH* that the incident occurred at about 1.15am.

Odubango said, "At about 1.15am, Hammed's father, Alhaji Olusoji, raised the alarm that we should help rescue his son. We rushed to his apartment but unfortunately he was completely buried under the debris. It was only his leg that was visible."

"It took time before he could be removed from the debris and by the time he was removed, he was found dead."

An occupant of the building, Gbenga Durojaiye, said he would have been a victim of the incident if he had not attended an all-night prayer.

Durojaiye said, "I stay upstairs and my room was affected. The collapsed wall fell onto our bed and our kitchen. I thank God that I heeded my wife's call to attend our church's vigil

in Ebute Meta. Maybe we would have been dead by now."

"My eight months old pregnant sister, Bosede, who slept in the sitting room when the incident happened, is presently in shock and has been put on bed rest because of this incident."

Shotuminu's elder brother, Shamsudeen, blamed his brother's death on the lackadaisical attitude of the landlord of the building.

He said, "That compound consists of about four buildings and as big as it is, there is no drainage channel. All flood waters are directed towards this fence that we both share."

"The same incident happened some 27 years ago when a wall that was built in that same location collapsed because there was no channel that flood waters would pass through. My father sued the owner of the house then but later withdrew the case for peace to prevail."

Meanwhile, the Bariga LCDA and the Lagos State Emergency Management Authority have sealed off the building.

The Head of Operations, LASEMA, Mr. Olusegun Magnus-Davies, said the occupants of the compound were asked to move order to ensure their safety.

He said, "The collapsed building is no longer fit for habitation and besides all other houses in this compound would be subjected to stability tests. Residents of this compound were asked to move to pave way for the necessary

tests that would show if the other buildings are still habitable."

Meanwhile, a 17-year-old boy, Abraham, was on Thursday feared killed as he was carried away by flood waters in Mafoluku area of Oshodi.

Our correspondent learnt that Abraham was drowned at about 6.30am when he was salvaging some planks he had gathered beside Sadiku canal in the area.

He was said to have slipped into the river when he attempted to pick a plank that was about to be washed away by the flood water.

A resident of the area who was simply identified as Lara, said Abraham, who was an apprentice tailor, gathered the planks on Wednesday in order to sell them off on Thursday.

She said, "He struggled with the flood waters and raised his hands. I also tried to save him but I missed his hands."

When our correspondent visited the area, the two search parties were unable to find Abraham's body.

The flood waters also sacked Sadiku, Fadeyi and Church streets in the Mafoluku area of the state.

A resident of 1, Fadeyi Street, Helen Nwosu said her food stuffs, electrical appliances and other personal belongings were damaged by the floods which sacked their building around 1am.

"We now live like refugees government should come to our aid and find a lasting solution to the problem of flooding in our area," she said.



• A bungalow sited in Olatumji Obasa.



• Flooded New Lagos on Thursday. Photo: S

Floods sack, trap

Sesan Olufowobi

THE torrential rains in Lagos and Ogun states on Wednesday and Thursday have sacked residents of a street, and trapped others inside a storey building in Joju, Sango, Ogun State.

Also, a section of the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway caved in at

Ajala Bus Stop, and caused a gridlock on both sides of the expressway.

Our correspondent learnt that while a large number of residents of the houses affected by the flood in Joju lost their property, no life was lost.

One of the occupants of the affected bungalow, who gave her name as Yetunde Akewula, said they had a

premonition of the that awaited them the Wednesday day.

She said, "I felt, water had entered the house after it stooped, was discharging the outside. After a while I felt it was safe to go. We did not know it would continue to flood."

Indeed few

Canoe owners make huge profits in flooded communities