

One dies, 20 injured as three-storey building collapses

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One person died while several people were trapped yesterday when a three-storey building under construction caved in at Richard Abimbola Street near Ilesha bus stop on the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos.

About 20 labourers, who sustained severe injuries, were rescued from the rubble of the building.

At press time, rescuers were still trying to rescue those trapped.

It was learnt that the labourers were working on the building when it collapsed on them, leaving many of them seriously wounded. The survivors, who were unconscious when they were brought out of the rubble, were rushed to the hospital.

Sources in the Lagos State Building Control Agency said the building was not given approval before embarking on the building.

It was also learnt that the unfortunate incident occurred about 2 p.m. when many of the labourers were preparing to go for lunch break.

The emergency responders comprising the Red Cross, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Rapid Respond Squad (RRS), the Lagos State Fire Service, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and



Emergency responders rescuing one of the survivors

others had a hectic time managing the situation.

The General Manager, LASEMA, Mr. Adesina Tiamiyu, disclosed that the number of the trapped victims was yet to be ascertained. He added that 13 labourers were brought out of the debris.

He said some were been treated by the agency's medical team and Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS).

Another resident, who pleaded anonymity, said she could not confirm if life was lost.

She, however, said 20 people were brought out of the rubble.

Meanwhile, an official of LASBCA, who said he was not authorised to speak on the incident, said that the building had been sealed by agency.

The official alleged that the owner of the project chased the government work-

ers away before breaking the seal.

He said: "In fact, our men were there this morning (yesterday morning), they sent Area Boys after them and continued the building."

According to him, the newly appointed General Manager of LASBCA has not resumed.

Also, the Public Relations Officer, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), South West zone, Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye, said 16 persons had been rescued while rescue operation was ongoing.

He said: "The operation is still ongoing but 16 persons have been rescued. But the number of persons still trapped cannot be ascertained. We are working to make sure no person was left under the rubble."

Farinloye said the survivors were taken to Isolo General Hospital, but where they were responding to treatment.