

Ikoyi building collapse: Two more bodies recovered, death toll now 45

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The Lagos State government yesterday said it has recovered two more dead bodies from the collapsed Ikoyi building site, saying the death toll at the unfortunate incidence has hit 45.

The government also said that 32 families have so far submitted samples for DNA to identify bodies that they wish to claim.

In a statement by the state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Gbenga Omotoso, the identification of bodies of the victims has continued at IDH, Yaba, Lagos Mainland.

The statement reads: "Thirty-two families have

come forward to submit samples for DNA to identify bodies that they wish to claim.

"Contrary to speculations, no directive has been given for the demolition of the two high-rise buildings standing at the site of the 21-storey collapsed building in Ikoyi, Lagos. The Panel of Inquiry instituted to establish issues surrounding the collapse of the building has continued to sit and an integrity test is yet to be conducted on the buildings. It is, therefore, wrong to assert or speculate that the buildings will be demolished.

"The operation at the site of the collapsed building continues. Vehicular movement around the site

has been smooth, following the reopening of the road.

"Two more bodies were recovered from the site today. The recovery of the two bodies has brought to 45 the number of bodies retrieved from the site.

"The identification of bodies of the victims of the incident has continued at IDH, Yaba, Lagos Mainland. Thirty-two families have come forward to submit samples for DNA to identify bodies that they wish to claim. In cases where identification is clear and there are no arguments, the bodies will be released to the families.

"A committee to supervise the identification and release of the bodies has begun work. It comprises senior officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice," he said.

Man bags life imprisonment

6. 1. 1. 10-year-old girl

Lifeless body of