

# Unconfirmed persons killed, several injured as building collapses in Minna

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MINNA

An unconfirmed number of persons were

## 7 Injured, cows die in Lagos-Ibadan Expressway accident

Seven people were injured in an accident involving a Volvo truck, carrying cows, and two other vehicles on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Saturday.

The two other vehicles involved in the multiple accidents, which occurred in the Ibafo area of the expressway, are a blue luxury car and a white Mazda car.

Mrs Florence Okpe, the spokesperson of the Federal Road Safety Corps (RSC) in Ogun, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Abeokuta on Saturday. Okpe said that the acci-

said to have died and several others were seriously injured in the Sabon Gari area of Minna following the collapse of a warehouse.

Eyewitnesses said the incident which occurred on Friday at the busy Kasuwan Gwari Market had many others trapped in the building.

The building according to findings was a residential building which the owner, a Kano State indigene converted into a warehouse without effecting any amendments to suit a warehouse.

It was reliably gathered that two trailer loads of soft drinks were being offloaded with about 50 people inside the warehouse when the building collapsed.

One of the eyewitnesses, who was at the scene of the incident, Aliyu Umaru, said immediately the building collapsed, traders and shop owners rallied around the building to help rescue the injured and trapped.

According to him "many people were trapped in the building. Some were pulled out dead while some were

seriously injured about ten of them were rushed to the hospital.

"Their condition was critical. One particular victim was panting as he was being carried to the hospital. I doubt if he will survive".

Confirming the incident, the Director General Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) Abdullahi Baba-Arah in a statement said the building would be demolished.

Baba-Arah also said no approval was received for the conversion of the building from a residential property to a warehouse.

"NSEMA received a distress call at 3:15 pm. of a building collapse at Sabon Gari area of Minna. The agency quickly alerted responding agencies for search and rescue operations.

The search and rescue operations were conducted under the leadership of NSEMA, NEMA, the State Urban Development Board, and the State Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Federal Fire Service, The police, NSCDC,

NDLEA, The Redcross, Vigilant groups and some volunteers.

Baba Arah further disclosed that "5 people were rescued with various degrees of injuries, while 2 people escaped unhurt.

"An excavator was brought in to help in clearing the debris for possible entrapment, NEMA also brought life-dictating gadgets, but after intensive searching for about 3 hours, no one was trapped. "

NSEMA disclosed that its findings showed that after the search and rescue operations, it was discovered that the story building was initially for residential purposes and later converted to a warehouse.

"The owner has no approval for a change of purpose, and it was also poorly constructed with substandard materials. The warehouse was full to the brim with soft drinks from about 25 trucks, which overpowered the structure that led to its collapse".

NSEMA said the State Urban Development Board has ordered for complete demolition of the structure.