

Woman, sister, two sons die in collapsed building

*Flood sweeps away boy, rescuer

By **Olasunkanmi Akoni**

TRAGEDIES occurred in Lagos, yesterday, following a downpour across the state.

A mother, her two children and sister died in a collapsed building incident at Magodo in Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, LCDA, of the state.

In another sad incident, flood swept an 11-year-old boy and his rescuer, one Wasiu, into a canal in Aboru and Iyana-Ipaja area of Alimosho Local Government Area, following the overflow of the canal as a result of storm water.

Meanwhile, a storey building at Ita-Elewa in Ikorodu area of the state collapsed during the torrential rainfall. No life was lost in the incident.

In the Magodo incident, Mrs. Jumiah Utache, two-year-old Domino Utache, a year old Daniel Utache and nine-year-old Faith Emman-

uel (Jumiah's sister) all died, at 48, Arisha Water Front, Otun Araromi Street, Magodo Phase 1 when their building collapsed. The incident, which occurred before midday, saw the husband, Mr. Emmanuel Utache, who sustained different degrees of injuries, being rushed to a hospital before the arrival of Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, LASEMA, on rescue operation.

LASEMA later recovered and bagged the remains of the deceased Utache family members and relative, and handed them over to their extended family members.

Flood

The Aboru and Iyana-Ipaja incident threw residents into mourning after flood swept away the 11-year-old boy and his rescuer into a canal linking Aboru and Iyana-Ipaja on Ige Road, after the overflow of the canal as a result of storm water.

It was gathered that two young boys sent by their parents to buy cooking gas at a gas station fell into the drain through which water passed into the canal.

"Three young men attempted rescuing the boys and succeeded in rescuing the older one, but one of the rescuers, popularly known as Wasiu Stubborn, was swept away while trying to rescue the other victim", an eye witness said.

Another resident, Mr Suleiman Adedokun, who operates a shop beside the canal, said the rescuer, 'Wasiu Stubborn', entered the drain to rescue the boy but the flood swept both of them away into the canal.

"Wasiu succeeded in rescuing the second boy but his effort to come out of the drain proved futile due to the force of the water", Adedokun said.

"It is the bad road and narrow culvert that caused these deaths because these two children that fell inside the drain didn't know it was there as water covered everywhere." A furniture maker in the area, Mr Gift Wejem, lamented that flood had severely swept away furniture, materials, machines and

generator whenever the canal overflowed its bank.

However, an officer of the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps, LNSC, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the agency got information at about 9:00 am that flood carried away Wasiu while trying to rescue two children.

He said that the LNSC had made efforts and called relevant agencies of government who, he said, might arrive the scene anytime.

"We are trying to locate the parents of the children and also to contact the family of Wasiu," the LNSC officer said.

Speaking at the scene, Mr Solomon Agboghroma, a Community Development Association leader in Oki town, regretted the development, blaming the failure of government to construct a bridge in the area for such incidents.

Narrating the ordeal of landlords and residents of the area, Agboghroma said that anytime it rained, there was always flood, saying there was the need to expand Aboru Road and build a bridge at Cement Bus Stop to forestall recurrence of such tragedy.