

Boy, 5, dies as 3-storey building collapses in Lagos

3 By **Olasunkanmi Akoni**

TRAGEDY struck, yesterday, when a five-year-old boy died and scores narrowly escaped death following the partial collapse of a distressed three-storey building in Adeniji Adele axis of Lagos State.

It was gathered that part of the building at 19, Church Street off Adeniji Adele Street in Lagos Island suddenly caved in when some of the occupants, including the deceased child, were already asleep.

According to men of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, LASEMA, who raced to the scene on a rescue mission, the single, yet-to-be-identified fatality was lost due to a room beam that partially collapsed on the boy when the incident occurred. Other occupants at the time of the incident sustained injuries and have been

taken to the hospital.

Director-General of LASEMA, Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, who confirmed the incident, said: "Situation report had it that upon arrival at the scene, a room beam partially collapsed on a five-year-old boy, at the aforementioned address.

"Further investigation revealed that the building had been slated for non-integrity test because of visible cracks on the beam and columns of the building. All the tenants had been asked to evacuate the building and also the building has been cordoned off for the safety of residents.

At press time, the body of the deceased had been taken to the morgue.

Aside from LASEMA, Lagos State Building Control Agency, LABSCA and Lagos State Safety Commission were also present at the scene to conduct a proper assessment of the affected building.