

Eight days after, Lagos remembers collapsed building's victims

AN inter-denominational service was yesterday held at the side of penultimate Tuesday's collapsed building in Ebute Metta, Lagos, in remembrance of the victims. About 60 persons lost their lives in the incident.

Lagos State Governor, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who spoke at the service, pledged the assistance of his administration to the victims and assured that it would collaborate with the Federal Government to ensure that substandard building materials were no longer imported or produced in Nigeria.

And on its part, the Presidency has declared a renewed war against violators of engineering regulations nationwide.

According to Tinubu, the Building Control Inspectorate Division of the State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development would be strengthened to ensure strict compliance with the rules guiding construction.

He reiterated that the developer of the collapsed building was going to be dealt with as soon as the police and other professional reports on the incident were made available to the government.

"The developer has to face the music. He has risked people's lives, caused untimely death of innocent people and traded with their lives. He has to pay for his shylock attitude", the governor said.

The governor announced

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the seizure of the land on which the collapsed building was erected.

Tinubu said the state government would soon start a housing project on the piece of land for the benefit of the people while the remaining two buildings belonging to the same developer on the same street would be brought down soon without compensation.

He said his administration would help the children of the victims.

The governor stressed that a foundation would be set up from the proceeds of the proposed housing project on the land seized from the

developer.

His words: "We will help the children of the victims and those who have been made to be orphans by the collapsed building. I can assure those children of the victims that they will not suffer."

"We would work with the Nigerian Red Cross to relocate, give them succour and temporary accommodation. I cannot unilaterally determine the nature of compensation until I consult with the state executive council, but the state is going to look at the various forms of assistance to give to the children of the victims. Those who have become orphans will be helped to meet the future challenges," the governor said.

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