

# Three feared dead as building collapses in Lagos

**T**RAGEDY struck again in Lagos when a building collapsed in Yaba. No fewer than three people were feared dead and 24 trapped after the building crashed.

As at press time police authorities could only confirm the number of the dead.

Another source, however, said policemen attached to the Yaba environs had gone to the scene with a view to helping in the rescue operation.

The Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olayinka Egbeyemi, who spoke with *The Guardian* said: "I just received a

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*By Alex Olise*

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report that three persons were dead in the incident. We are still trying to reach the Divisional Police Offi-

cer (DPO)".

The incident brought to three the cases of collapsed building recorded in the same area within the past four months.

Experts traced the re-occurring issue of collapsed building in Lagos to the poor maintenance culture of owners of the buildings.

## Industrialists ask govt to reverse new fuel price, VAT

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*By Dele Fanimu and Babatola Adeyemi*

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**M**EMBERS of the Organised Private Sector (OPS) have added their voice to the calls for the reverse of the recent increase in the price of fuel and Value Added Tax (VAT) by the Federal Government.

At a media briefing on the twin issues yesterday in Lagos, OPS President, Mazi Sam Ohuanbuwa, who spoke

alongside the President of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Alhaji Bashir Borodo, was emphatic: "You can't ignore Nigerians. We are lending our voice to the protests against these increases. Government must listen to

Nigerians."

Ohuabunwa added: "We wish to reiterate that an increase in VAT at this time of the nation's industrial development is ill-timed, and will set the private sector operators backwards, especially with the rising cost of business operations and inadequate infrastructure, poor power supply and bad road network.