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Daily Independent (Lagos)

Nigeria: Two Feared Dead as Four-Storey Building Collapses in Enugu

Emmanuel Nzomiwu

5 June 2011

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Enugu — Two people were feared dead as a four-storey building under construction, collapsed in Enugu on Sunday. The building, located at Monarch Avenue, behind Maryland Estate, was nearing completion before it caved in around 1.30.p.m, on Sunday.

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Eyewitnesses said that some labourers were seen at work on the site, few minutes before the building collapsed. There are fears that the labourers and private security guards at the building were still trapped under the huge debris as at press time.

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Some residents, who live very close to the collapsed building, said that they were relaxing in their homes when they heard a loud cracking thunder-like sound, which was followed by a big tremor.

They said that by the time they could summon courage to come out of their homes a few minutes after, they only met the debris of the towering four-storey building. Three GP tanks inside the building were totally crushed by heavy mass of concrete and blocks.

One of the residents said he saw two of the mai guards (security men) and some labourers working at the building while he was returning from church. Our source said that it was not up to one hour he returned from church before the building collapsed.

Unconfirmed reports had it at Press time that some people were indeed trapped in the collapsed building.

It was also gathered that the owner of the building came to the scene, saw the debris from a distance and rushed into his car and zoomed off.

As at 5.p.m, people were still gathered around the building, but no rescue mission was going on more than three hours after the building collapsed.

When Daily Independent contacted the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ebere Amaraizu, he said that he was yet to be briefed on the incident.

Since commissioners were yet to be appointed in Enugu State, the correspondent contacted the immediate past Commissioner for Capital Development, John Egbo, on phone.

Egbo said that he was not aware of the incident, but promised to visit the site and get back to the correspondent.

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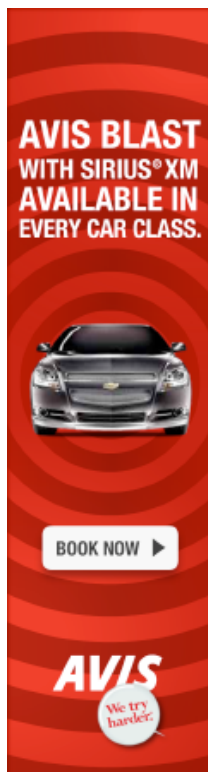
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