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One feared dead as 5-storey building collapses in Onitsha

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By Emmanuel Nzomiwu,

Correspondent Awka

One person was feared dead when a five storey building under construction collapsed in Onitsha, the commercial city of Anambra State on Friday.

The building is located at Udi Street, between Anaekwe Street and Ofili street.

According to eye-witness account, the building which was almost nearing completion, suddenly collapsed at about 6.pm yesterday.

Our source said they saw a carpenter who was working on the roof of the building when it caved in, fall down from that towering height.

As the building was collapsing, we saw the man falling from the roof and crashing on the ground in a nearby compound. He is lying down there, looking lifeless? he said.

It was not clear if there was anybody trapped in the building as rescue work was yet to begin more than two

hours after the building collapsed.

A source in the area who pleaded anonymity identified the owner of the building as a trader in Ochanja Market Onitsha widely known as 'Ave Maria'.

Our source could not however provide any information about the engineer handling the project.

The police spokesman in Anambra State, Emeka Chukwuemeka could not be reached for official confirmation of our report as at press time.

This is the second incident of building collapse in Onitsha within the past two weeks as another building under construction earlier collapsed, killing about four people.

Governor Willie Obiano had on Monday set up a committee comprising of engineers and a lawyer, to investigate the first incident and report back to the State Government.

#

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