

News

Two Die, Five Trapped As Three Storey Building Collapses In Aba

UCHE NWOSU
UMUAHIA

A three storey building located on Azikiwe Road, Aba, Abia State, collapsed in the early hours of Wednesday, killing two persons on the spot, while five others were trapped in the rubble.

However, another victim was miraculously rescued and sent to an undisclosed hospital in the city.

It was learnt that the deceased and the survivor of the collapsed building were destitute who usually took refuge in the building and were there when the structure crashed.

When reporters visited the collapsed building, no excavator or other earth-moving equipment was seen on the ground to help in the rescue efforts, but

sympathisers managed to wade in through some open parts of the collapsed building to rescue the survivor.

Unfortunately, the volunteers and sympathisers who were trying to assist in the rescue efforts were attacked by some hoodlums who accused them of taking undue advantage of the situation.

They also harassed those taking pictures with their phones.

A shop owner in the area said the building was still under construction, adding that the traders around there had a clue that it would go down the next day.

"The building was still standing when I closed for business yesterday (Tuesday).

"Construction work was, at that time going on, but when I came back this

morning (Wednesday), the building had collapsed.

"We were told that two persons were confirmed dead, one rescued and taken to hospital, and that five persons are still trapped in the building."

However, most people attributed the cause of the collapse to use of inferior materials by the contractor.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Geoffrey Ogbonna, said his men were waiting for the arrival of an excavator in order to rescue those still trapped in the rubble.

However, Bob Ogu, the Commissioner for Works in the state, who confirmed the arrival of an excavator later, said more people could still be trapped in the rubble, even as he believed that those still trapped would be rescued.

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