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10 confirmed dead in Afriland Towers inferno

TEN people have been confirmed dead in the Lagos building fire which occurred on Tuesday. They include six employees of United Capital and four of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Chairman of Heirs Holdings and United Bank for Africa (UBA), Tony Elumelu, confirmed that some employees of Heirs Holdings were among those who lost their lives in the fire at Afriland Towers, Lagos Island.

The six-storey building, which is on Broad Street, also houses a branch of UBA and offices of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

In a message to staff members yesterday, Elumelu described the incident as devastating, noting

• Elumelu, FIRS mourn workers

By Zainab Olufemi

that no words could capture the grief felt by the families, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

"I am shattered by yesterday's devastating incident at Afriland Towers that took the lives of our dear colleagues. No words can capture the magnitude of this loss, not for their families who loved them, not for the friends who valued them, and not for those of us who worked beside them. Yesterday was a stark reminder of what truly matters: our irreplaceable people, those who walk through our doors each day and share our mission," the statement read.

Elumelu said he cut short his

trip to the United States, where he was due to attend the United Nations General Assembly, to return to Lagos in honour of the victims. He directed Heirs Holdings companies to observe a minute-of-silence yesterday and pledged support for the families of those affected.

The billionaire businessman also announced that a memorial service would be held to honour the deceased employees. He commended emergency responders, first aid workers and the public who showed courage during the incident.

Also, the FIRS yesterday confirmed the death of four of its staff members in the same fire.

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