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Church building collapses in Kaduna, kills 5

Written by Hassan Ibrahim-Kaduna | Monday, 02 December 2013 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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Five workers died at the weekend in Kaduna as a church building belonging to St. Faith Catholic Church at Anguan Dosa in Kaduna North Local Government area collapsed.

Four died instantly while the fifth, who was seriously injured, died later at a Kaduna private hospital.

An eyewitness said the church building located at No. 9 Dosa Road was deserted by worshippers following the 2011 Presidential election crisis which forced the worshippers to relocate to other places.

The church authorities after consultation decided to sell the property to one Alhaji Suleiman Danzaria, who contracted the demolishing of the building to Alhaji Mohammed Idris, who employed about 25 workers to demolish it manually.

"On Saturday after the monthly sanitation exercise, the workers arrived at the site around 10.00 a.m. and immediately commenced work of demolishing the building around 10.45a.m.

"Suddenly, the decking collapsed on the workers and 15 of them were trapped. 10 of the workers escaped death while four died on the spot and another died at a private hospital," the eyewitness said.

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Ambassador Nuhu Audu Bajoga, has visited and sympathised with the families of the deceased.

He also visited Almadiya hospital where the injured were being treated and instructed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to move them to the 44 Army Reference Hospital.

Bajoga, accompanied by the Executive Secretary of SEMA, disclosed that government will pay the hospital bills of the two workers who were critically injured.

He, however, enjoined property developers to use the right machines to demolish buildings to avoid or eliminate casualties in the process.

While condemning the attitude of property owners/developers who employ labourers and engage them to use unsophisticated implements to conduct dangerous assignments like demolishing complicated structures, the deputy governor said government would take drastic measures against such property owners/developers.

He warned that such people must always comply with government regulations on buildings in the state.

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