

## Three feared killed, many injured as two-storey building collapses in Rivers

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THREE persons have been reported to have lost their lives while many were injured when a two-storey building under construction collapsed in Rivers State.

The incident was said to have occurred on Saturday on Isi Ewu road in Mbodo community in Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the deceased were labourers working at the site when the incident occurred.

The Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the state, Olufemi Ayodele, confirmed the incident in a statement made available to newsmen on Sunday.

Ayodele said the state commandant of the NSCDC, Michael Ogar, who visited the scene, attributed the collapse to the use of sub-standard materials.

Ogar, who was represented by the Head of the Rivers NSCDC Disaster Management Rescue Team, James Ngene, said preliminary investigation revealed that the rods, pillars and blocks used in the construction of the building were far below the required specifications.

The statement reads: "It is high time Nigerians began to take responsibility for their actions, most especially when human life is involved.

"The collapse of the two-storey building at Aluu in Ikwerre Local Government Area could have actually been avoided if standard materials and right specifications were used.

"Owners of buildings and landlords are hereby advised to be wary of desperate and quack building contractors who care only about their pockets and not the lives of innocent people.

"The Rivers State commandant lauded the chairman of Ikwerre Local Government Area, Honourable Samuel Nwanosike, for mobilising three pay loaders and providing the necessary logistics.

"That effort enhanced the rescuing of the victims and recovery of three corpses during a joint rescue operation by NSCDC, National Emergency Management Agency, other security agencies and well-meaning people who worked tirelessly to salvage the situation."

The NSCDC boss said "the collapsed building environment has now been cordoned and sealed to prevent further disaster."