

Collapsed Lagos building

Fresh fact indicts developer

• 400 residents seek landlord's arrest

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FRESH information on the developer of the four-storey that collapsed in Ebute Metta, Lagos indicated on Saturday that an 11-year old girl fell and drowned in a deep well sunk by him around another gigantic building handled by him.

The incident, according to *Sunday Punch* investigations,

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Former Vice President Umaru Dikko, who was arrested by the police, is seen with his wife, Udoth Obi, during their wedding in Lagos ... recently.

400 residents seek landlord's arrest

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occurred one week before Wednesday's tragedy that claimed more than 50 lives.

The girl reportedly stumbled while trying to climb the staircase at the three-storey building located at Osholake Street in Ebute Metta and plunged into the well situated under the staircase.

The well was hurriedly constructed as there was no provision for it in the original plan of the building.

Investigations also revealed that contrary to an earlier belief, the company, which developed the buildings, was actually owned by three persons namely, Usman, Lekan and Yinka (surnames withheld).

While both Lekan and Yinka, who reportedly returned to Nigeria after a stint abroad, are the financiers of the company, Usman was said to be fronting for them as the developer.

The state police command Public Relations Officer, Mr. Bode Ojajuni, told *Sunday Punch* on Saturday that his men had intensified the search for the developer of the collapsed building.

He disclosed that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo had ordered the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, to carry out a comprehensive documentation of all developers in the state.

Meanwhile, the residents of the four buildings handled by the developer have urged the authorities to quickly arrest their landlords.

The residents, who are 75 in all, said they have at least five dependants each in their respective flats.

Speaking with *Sunday Punch* on Saturday, they disclosed that they were already packing out of their apartments in compliance with government directive to quit

within seven days.

Apart from the collapsed four-storey building on 56, Bola Street, other houses built by the developers are; a two-storey building located on 42, Ibadan Street (19 flats), a three storey building also on 49 Ibadan Street (23 flats), two -storey building at 51 Coates Street (20 flats) and a two-storey building at 77B Bola Street (13 flats).

They alleged that the firm had closed down all its offices at 71, Bola Street, Ebute-Meta; 139/148, Idi-Ose, Orile-Iganmu and 11A, Ereko Street Lagos, since the incident occurred last Tuesday evening.

A resident, of 77B Bola Street, Mr. Tunji Makanjuola, said he paid a five year rent at N100, 000 per annum in 2004 for a self contain, apartment and had to provide doors, water closet and the electric connection, which cost additional N80,000.

