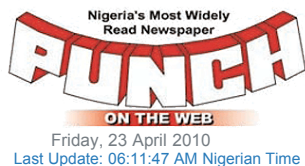


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Collapsed building: 17 die in Auchi

By Friday Olokor, Published: Sunday, 18 Apr 2010

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Tragedy struck in Auchi, Estako-West Local Government Area of Edo State on Saturday when a building still under construction **collapsed** and killed no fewer than **17** persons.

Although the details of the incident were still unclear as at press time, SUNDAY PUNCH gathered that the deceased were all construction workers at the site.

The incident, it was further learnt, happened about 5 am while the workers were asleep.

The building, planned for a hotel, allegedly belongs to a Benin-based multimillionaire and Chairman of Uyi Technical Ltd., Mr. Uyi Oloton.

Attempts made to see Oloton at his Mission Road office, Benin, failed as members of his staff refused to disclose his whereabouts.

Also, efforts made to see the site engineer suffered a setback as his whereabouts remained unknown.

However, six lucky survivors of the incident confirmed to newsmen that the incident happened early in the morning on Saturday. According to them, they were woken up by a deafening sound from the **collapsed** building at about 5 am.

When contacted on phone, the spokesman of the state police command, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Peter Ogboi, confirmed the development but could not give the exact number of casualties.

According to him, a tractor is still working at the scene of the incident and no report has indicated the number of people who died.

Meanwhile, the police in Auchi have been drafted to the scene of the disaster to forestall any possible breakdown of law and order from the emotional crowd, who converged on the scene.

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