

# Many feared trapped as five-storey building

**Ikenna Obianeri, Awka**

**L**ESS than three weeks after a three-storey building collapsed at the Odu-Igbo section of the Ochanja Market in Onitsha, killing no fewer than six persons, another five-storey building has collapsed at Basden Street, Fegge, in the commercial city of Onitsha, Onitsha South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

It was gathered that the building, meant to serve commercial purposes on completion, collapsed in the early hours of Sunday, while some of the construction workers were on the last floor.

Sources in the area said the building made a loud noise that sent panic around the area

before caving in from the fifth floor, adding that there were human activities under the building a few hours before it collapsed.

A source said, "On Friday night, there was heavy rainfall in the area and it came with heavy winds for several hours and just at about 5am on Sunday, we heard a thunderous noise from the construction site and after a few minutes, the building started caving in from the last floor.

"Some of the workers were on the last floor when the building came down. No one knows how many of them were there, but they were trapped in the rubble.

The developer quickly moved an excavator to the site to begin the evacuation of the rubble and



• The collapsed building

possible rescue operations for the trapped victims.

"The building was at its finishing stages. An escalator is currently working on the debris

to see if the trapped persons will be rescued, we are not sure if they are still dead or alive, the local government area chairman has visited there and waiting for

# collapses in Anambra

the escalator to pull down the remains of the building."

Although the reason for the collapse had yet to be ascertained as of the time of filing this report on Sunday evening, it was gathered that one person had been rescued while rescue operations were still ongoing to locate other trapped victims from the rubble.

When contacted on the development, the state police spokesperson, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, confirmed the incident and said security operatives were already on the ground to coordinate the rescue operation.

He, however, declined to comment on the number of casualties, saying the rescue operation when completed will answer that.

"Immediately the incident was reported, the DPO in charge of the area quickly cordoned off the place and our DCP Ops is already on the ground to coordinate the rescue operation, which is ongoing.

"Yes, our operatives led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of operations are there now, the area has been

## Court to hear suit se

**Dayo Oyewo**

**T**HE Magistrates' Court sitting in Ikorodu, Lagos State, is set to hear a suit seeking a Deoxyribonucleic Acid test for Liam, the son of the late singer, Ilerioluwa Aloba, also known as Mohbad.

This was confirmed in a

Two sons suspended three on trial for \$2,000