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...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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Abuja: 3 dead, 20 rescued from collapsed 2-storey building

...many still trapped beneath rubbles



Rescue workers taking a victim out of the rubbles

Caleb Onwe
ABUJA

Three site workers have been confirmed dead, about 20 others rescued and many said to still be trapped under

the rubbles of a two-storey commercial complex that collapsed at the Gwarimpa District of Abuja.

The collapsed building under construction is sited in a place said to be initially earmarked as a green area, but

was allegedly compromised by the Federal Housing Authority (FHA).

New Telegraph's findings showed that FCTA and management of FHA have been having conflicting issues over contraventions going on in allocation of land within the District.

As at the time of filing this story, the rescue operation was still ongoing by a combined team of relevant government's agencies and other organisations.

Director, Development Control, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Muktar Galadima said that those rescued have been taken to hospital for medical attention. The Coordinator, Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC), Umar Shuaibu said investigation will commence immediately to ascertain both the remote and immediate

causes of the collapse.

According to an eye witness, John Edwin, the workers on the site, especially laborers conveying blocks to the top, were over 50.

He claimed to have lived in the area for many years, and that he has always known the place to be a reserved green area.

Edwin urged relevant authorities to call the management of Federal Housing Authority to question, for illegally allocating green areas for commercial complex.

Meanwhile, FHA's Kenneth Chigelu, Head, Public Affairs, acknowledged that the developers compromised the approval granted them.

Chigelu noted that, "Preliminary findings revealed that an approval for two floors was granted to the developer, who decided to add an extra floor to the structure."