

# Collapsed Building Claims 6 in Lagos

No fewer than six persons yesterday lost their lives when a 3-storey building located at Eyita Estate, Ikorodu, collapsed trapping a yet to be ascertained number

*By Eugene Agha*

of persons under its rubble. Yesterday's incident came barely 48 hours after a similar incident occurred at Iba area

of the metropolis in which three persons were confirmed dead by the police.

Some witnesses said four persons, among who are a couple and their five year old

daughter, were those that have so far been rescued since the building collapsed at about 1.30am.

Those rescued actually sustained various degrees of

injuries in the process and have been admitted at the emergency unit of the Ikorodu General Hospital.

Though, rescue work was still on as at the time when this report was filed, but eye witnesses alleged that the number of death could be as high as 15 persons taken into consideration the time when the incident occurred

The witnesses who hailed the timely arrival of the police to the collapsed site said the couple and their daughter were among the four persons that have so far being rescued.

"Those rescued were rushed to one of the General Hospitals in Ikorodu by officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Services (LASEMBUS) where they are currently receiving medical attention.

One of the trapped victims in the collapsed building was still calling his relations on his mobile phone as at the time THISDAY left the scene.

The building tragedy, according to another witness, occurred at about 1:30am, trapping a good number of the occupants who may have gone to bed.

Police report has it that the building, located at 17, Nosiru Akinwo Street, Eyita Estate, Ikorodu, was said to have collapsed between 1 and 1:45 am when the report of the incident was received by the police in the area.

A combined team of the police, LASMA, LASEMBUS, Red Cross, Fire Service and some were still working at the site around 4.30PM when THISDAY left the scene. Some of the rescue workers were seen searching for trapped occupants who sent distressed calls from the rubble to their relations.

"The building has been under construction for seven years but it was only recently that the tenants started moving into it. The house has been showing signs of collapse and it finally came down at the early hours of today. Indeed, only four persons have so far been rescued a combined team of the police, LASMA and fire fighters", the witness alleged

The witness further alleged that nobody could say how many people were dead, or

still trapped under the rubble as only six bodies have so far been retrieved, adding that one of the trapped residents who called from the rubble with his mobile phone was no longer responding to further communication.

When THISDAY visited the scene yesterday, the rescue team was combing the ruins for more victims. The rescue officials were still battling to retrieve the body of one of the victims who was still lying lifeless under the collapsed house.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Frank Mba told THISDAY that occupants of the opposite building said to be owned by the same person have been asked to evacuate the house for fear that the house might likely face similar incident.

Mba, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) stated that only one person has been confirmed dead while four others, including a couple and their five year old daughter, were among those rescued.

According to him, one other person who was still trapped under the debris was still calling his relations with the use of a mobile phone, while efforts was on to rescue another person who was sited lying lifelessly under the collapsed structure.

"The police got the news of the collapsed structure at about 1.45am upon which the police condoned off the entire area to prevent any theft it he added.

It will be recalled that a similar incident occurred at Iba, in which about three persons were reported dead by the police, while several others injured pushing the total number of persons killed in collapsed building within 48 hours to about nine.

The Iba building tragedy occurred last Sunday night when a residential two-storey house collapsed in New Iba area of Lagos, killing three people and injuring many.

The building, located at 7, Alade Street, was said to have collapsed at about 9.00 p.m. just as some residents ended a social party in the area.

## ANOTHER DISASTER....



*\*The collapsed 3 storey building at Eyita in Ikorodu area of Lagos State yesterday*

## Criticisms Trail Non-adoption of PRONACO's Draft Constitution

*By Ndubuisi Ugah*

Almost two years after the Pro National Conference (PRONACO) produced what it termed draft constitution to replace the 1999 Constitution, strong criticism yesterday trailed its non-adoption through referendum by the Federal Government.

Though the latest criticism is said not to be unconnected with the Federal Government's establishment of the National Reform Committee (NRC), headed by Justice Muhammed Uwais, THISDAY gathered that the latest agitation was informed by what the agitators regarded as the "non-dispensation of justice in the suit before the Federal High Court, Abuja".

Speaking at a press briefing in Lagos, the Secretary General of the Movement for New Nigeria (MNN), an offshoot of PRONACO, Mr. Tony Nnadi, said notablere-

and the numerous ethnic self-determination organisations to challenge the lie that "we the people of Nigeria... made the 1999 Constitution".

Flanked by two officials, Comrades Chinedu Achunine, Agba Justin Jalingo, Nnadi said "we owe it an urgent duty to address the source of that corruption-1999 Constitution-and stop wasting everybody's time chasing small rats all over the place in the name of fighting-corruption. With the 1999 Constitution in place, corruption is hale and hearty".

He explained that, "in order words, they are saying that the component nationalities that constitute Nigeria-the Gbagyi, the Ibibio, Tiv, Hausa, Yoruba, Ijaw, Jukun, Igbara, Igbo,

Annang, kanuri, Edo Itsekiri, Nupe, Idoma, kataf etc never had any meeting to constitute, to submit their various sovereignties, their lands, their peoples, their resources into a common basket called Nigeria, as claimed in that preamble".

Nnadi said it was unfair, that the Suit (FHC/ABJ/CS/367/07), had suffered almost 10 adjournments, despite the fact that the originating summons was brought in pursuant to Section 14 (1) & (2) (A), 251 (1) (Q), 315 (3) (D) & (4) (B) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Order 40 Rules (2) and (6) of the Federal High Court rules, 2000 and under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

While maintaining that the constitution is supposed to be

"the fountain from which all other laws flows including legislation, observance and enforcement of the entire legal order for the polity", Nnadi therefore, said posterity would judge, those violated the constitution, while trying to introduce extraneous ingredients, which negated the practice of rule of law.

According to him, "If our constitution is a fraud as shown by the Plaintiffs, then what manner of rule of law are we talking about because one is forced to ask, 'which law'.

The plaintiffs are saying that the 1999 Constitution is an engine of fraud and cannot therefore be the basis of any rule of law. Those who are supposed to revere and defend the constitution like myself and the Plaintiffs view it with utter disdain.