

7 Pupils Die as School Building Collapses

No fewer than seven school children were weekend confirmed dead while four others sustained various degrees of injuries when a school building located in Mgbom community in Afikpo, Afikpo North local government area of Ebonyi state collapsed.

The school, St. Theresa Montessori Nursery/primary and Secondary school, belonging to one Chief Egwu Iro is located along the road leading to Unwana, the country home of the late former Governor of the defunct East Central State, Dr Francis Akanu Ibiam.

Eyewitness account had it that one of the school buildings which was still under construction before the tragedy struck at about 10am on Friday, collapsed as the school children were observing their break.

"The children were actually playing in the building which is still under construction, not their

From Christopher Isiguzo

in Abakaliki

main building. But because the place is not so strong, as workers were still there, coupled with the fact that they were really not carrying out professional job there, the entire place collapsed. Unfortunately, that was the time, the children were still on break," one Kenneth Egwuka, who has two of his children in the school told THISDAY.

Egwuka further stated that it

took the combined efforts of policemen, men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), as well as youths of the area to evacuate the little children from the place, as there were strong indications that the main building housing the school might still collapse.

In their separate remarks, the chairman of Afikpo North local government area, Hon. Obinna Agha and one Pastor Sunday Uduma, whose cousin also attends the school, described the incident

as very tragic, noting that they were more pained by the fact that the incident was a man-made disaster rather than a natural disaster.

"Everybody that came here yesterday when it happened wept profusely. Our pain stemmed from the fact that all the buildings they have here are structurally defective. People just build for the sake of building, without getting the professional training. Now look at what it has caused us," the embittered council chairman stated.

Democratic Party Convention: Ekweremadu Heads Delegation to US

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Ike Ekweremadu is expected to lead the Nigerian delegation to the United States as part of International leaders that would observe the Democratic National

From Stanley Nkwazema

in Abuja

Convention (DNC) holding in Denver, Colorado next month.

The invitation is coming from

the United States Democratic party convention where the nomination of Senator Barak Obama would be ratified as the party's flag bearer in the November presidential election and enable the Presidential candidate present his choice of Vice Presidential