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Lagos, Nigeria, - 4:07 PM,
Wednesday, July 30th, 2008

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20 feared dead, 70 trapped in Abuja collapsed building

Written by Emma Ujah & Umoru Henry
Wednesday, 30 July 2008

**Victims mostly women, children food vendors; labourers*

AN uncompleted four-storey building collapsed yesterday in Abuja, leaving no fewer than 20 persons feared dead and over 70 persons trapped.

The massive building, a shopping mall, alleged to be owned by a former governor of a Niger Delta State is located in a swampy area of P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, off Augustus Aikhomu Street, Jabi. It is a stone throw from the headquarters of Trust Media Ltd, Publishers of Daily Trust Newspapers, Digital Bridge Institute and adjacent Chida Hotel.

The collapsed structure is said to be the largest shopping complex in the FCT, with about 700 shops.

The incident occurred at about 3.20 p.m. and as at the time of this report, no fewer than 30 persons (dead and injured) had been evacuated from the collapsed building and rushed to different hospitals.

According to an eye witness who spoke with Vanguard, one of the dead persons was a woman hawking sachet water popularly called pure water.

The dead persons, according to sources at the scene, were made up of mostly labourers as well as women and children who were hawking edibles at the site of the collapsed building.

The first batch of the dead persons as well as the injured, including the site Engineer, simply identified as Peter, were immediately taken to the National Hospital, Abuja.

Officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Federal Fire Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, VIO and the Police arrived the venue shortly after the incident, but could not save the situation.

A the time of this report, there was no presence of government bulldozers except for that of Arab Contractors, Dantata and Sawoe with number plate XD 115 YAB which came at exactly 5.35 pm, but it could neither rescue anyone nor bring out any dead body. Another bulldozer owned by Bulet Construction Nigeria Limited arrived the site at 6.16 p.m. This was after the chairman of the company, Mallam Ismaila Isa, had visited the scene.

Others who were at the scene were the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar; the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro; FCT Commissioner of Police, Mr John Haruna; Commandant- General, Civil Defence Corps, Dr. Ade Abolurin; DG, NEMA, Philip Aduda; Chairman, AMAC, Zephaniah Jisalo, among others.

It was also gathered that prior to its collapse, there was a crack that was first noticed, just as many blamed the lapses on the engineers for not making use of

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strong pillars to hold the building.

The pillars of the collapsed building were said to be very thin, adding that over 200 labourers were said to be working at the building with each of them being paid N1,800 daily.

Speaking with journalists at the scene of the incident, the FCTA Minister, Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar, who described the incident as very sad for Nigeria and Abuja, said it was against the avoidance of ugly situations like this that the administration always pays attention to builders and contractors and paying attention to building plans, just as he stressed that government would drag the contractors to court after carrying out a thorough investigation.

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1

Written by [dream](#), on 30-07-2008 07:20 , IP: 41.219.199.63

own by a former niger delta governor? with all the stolen billions yet still fails to build a simple solid structure, the height of incompetence, and lest i forget, the administration has paid attention very well, wonder what they were all doing there?

2

ABUJA AFTER EL-RUFAI

Written by [salisu kura](#), on 30-07-2008 07:36 , IP: 196.220.7.196

Abuja should expect more problems because the current authority is pretending to play the "mr, nice" system in the process mos problems earlier solved are crippling back eg the okada

3

natural justice

Written by [fred silvano](#), on 30-07-2008 07:55 , IP: 90.60.60.59

I pray that God bless and console the families of those who lost their lives in this ugly incident.poor people struggling to survive the hardship and poverty the political criminals has imposed on the nation.But the owner,James ibori will never go unpunished.all that he looted, and the afflictions he caused the Deltans,for this,his soul and property will never no peace in this land !

4

RIPWritten by [oveh jessica](#), on 30-07-2008 08:01 , IP: 41.204.224.41

I pray dat their souls rest in perfect peace

5

Re: Collapsed buildingWritten by [Peters Oladosu](#), on 30-07-2008 08:43 , IP: 41.194.21.41

It is a shame to our political leaders that innocent people continue to die as a result of negligence in monitoring constructions in Nigeria. After each incidence this is what they always say that they will prosecute Contractors but it is a lie, the treath die down after few weeks. For how long will Government continue to approve erection of buildings without certified Engineers. One thing is sure All those in Authority will account for the blood of all the victims. It is only in Nigeria that buildings collapse every few weeks. I am not a Prophet of doom but very soon you will hear another disaster

6

WHAT A COUNTRYWritten by [IFEOMA IFEACHO](#), on 30-07-2008 09:34 , IP: 80.250.36.13

"NIGERIA" WHAT A COUNTRY. POVERTY IN A COUNTRY THAT IS RICH WITH GODS GIFTS AND BLESSING BUT YET WE SUFFER. SEE HOW THESE PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES TRYING TO SURVIVE THIS POVERTY. IF THERE IS NO POVERTY, WOMEN CANNOT GO AS FAR AS LABOURER AND CHILDREN WILL NOT COME OUT TO HAWK PURE WATER AND MEN WILL NOT RISK THEIR LIVES FOR JUST A MERE N1,800 THAT WILL NOT DO FOR FAMILY MEAL A DAY WITH HIGH COST OF THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY. MAY GOD HELP US IN THIS COUNTRY AND MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE AMEN.

”

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