

How homeless octogenarian died in Imo

BY CHIDI NKWOPARA

U MUAMARA—THE octogenarian, Elder Francis Nwokorie, who narrowly escaped death with his wife, Martina in November, last year, when his mud house collapsed at Umuamara, Umuawuchi in Ihitte Uboma Local Government Area of the state is dead.

Nwokorie died following head injuries he allegedly sustained when he missed his step and hit his head on the ground. He was returning home from Umudaku Ward, a distance of about 22 metres away from their house, at about 6.45 pm last weekend.

The deceased who had no house when he died had narrowly escaped death late last year when the mud walls of their modest but dilapidating house collapsed on them midway into their sleep.

Narrating how she lost her husband, Mrs. Martina Nwokorie said that, "he fell

down having missed his steps on a track road and had a head injury. He hit his head on the ground but did not report the incident to anybody before going to bed. At about 2 am the next day, he started bleeding profusely from the nose and ears and lost a lot of blood in the process."

She also said that the old man could not be rushed to hospital because there was no vehicle

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• Elder Francis Nwokorie and his wife when their mud house collapsed

to take him to the nearest medical centre which was several kilometres away from Umuawuchi Community.

The villagers lamented that the home of the poor old man and his wife was not rebuilt by any philanthropist or good Samaritan before his death.

"It is sad that death has finally snatched our brother away from us. This came barely three months after we all jubilated over his miraculous escape

from the falling walls of his house," Nze Julius Nwokorie said.

For the Parish Priest of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uboma Central Parish, Umuawuchi, Rev. Canon Okeke, the demise of Elder Nwokorie had proved that the rural communities needed serious attention by government.

The Anglican cleric recalled that when the walls of their house fell on them, he urged

good spirited individuals to assist the old man and his wife, stressing that it was better to show him love than that he was alive than throwing sumptuous party now that he was dead in the name of funerals.

"With the possible exception of a woman, who was deeply touched by their plight and donated clothing materials, the sordid situation of husband and wife remained pitiable," Okeke lamented.