

5 feared dead as 3-storey building collapses in Anambra

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—FIVE persons were feared dead yesterday when a three-storey building under construction collapsed in Awka, the Anambra State capital.

The five persons were said to be on the ground floor of the building at the time of the incident.

An eyewitness said the building, located at the high density area close to the temporary site of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, collapsed

during a downpour on Wednesday evening.

According to the eyewitness, as the rain was falling heavily, there was a loud bang which made people around the area to scamper to safety, only for them to see the building come down in rubbles within seconds.

Attributing the collapse to apparent use of substandard materials, the witness said another three-storey building under construction adjacent the collapsed one, which is also being handled by the same contractor,

was already showing signs of cracks on its walls.

He said: "If you touch the blocks, you will see that they are just ordinary sand. The speed with which the building was going on was surprising, such that people around here were always expressing fear."

Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Alli Okechukwu, said though he heard about the incident, there had not been any formal report from the Divisional Police Officer in charge of the area.