

3 die as 4-storey building collapses in A-lbom

●As Gov Emmanuel orders investigation

By Chioma Onuegbu

UYO —A four-storey building under construction at Iman Street, off Aka Road in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital collapsed Saturday evening, killing three persons, leaving few others seriously injured and hospitalised.

A resident and an eyewitness told *Vanguard* in confidence at the scene of the incident, yesterday, that a construction worker, whom he identified as Enwoabasi, who was among the four persons rescued earlier died on the way to the hospital that Saturday night.

The resident said: "I was around when the incident happened. The four-storey building fell on another small house beside it. People were living inside that house. But when that incident happened at about 6p.m., we noticed that two persons were trapped, an Igbo boy, named Favour and a lady, who came to visit her friend.

"They were not able to escape from their rooms when the building fell on it. And I learnt that it was not up to 15 minutes that the brother of that Igbo boy who died stepped out of their room that this thing happened. However, they used excavator to remove the Igbo boy's corpse in early hours of Sunday.

"As they removed the body, we saw the head was cut-off. But the girl's corpse has not been found yet. I learnt the girl came just to visit her friend, so sad."

Meanwhile, at Life Care Health Clinic, it was ascertained that three other injured persons were on admission while one person had died on the way to the clinic.



Scene of the building collapse.

Police say one died

When contacted on the casualty figure, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Odiko MacDon, said: "The information at the command's disposal is that one person lost his life, while others are receiving treatment at the hospital. So far, we have not received any additional information of death."

Gov Emmanuel orders investigation

Meanwhile, Governor Udom Emmanuel in a statement by the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Ini Ememobong, has commiserated with the families of the victims of the building collapse, and directed that a panel of inquiry be set up to investigate the

unfortunate incident.

The statement read: "Following the unfortunate incident of the collapse of a four-storey building on Iman Street, off Aka Road in Uyo, our state capital, Governor Emmanuel has expressed his deepest condolences to the families whose relatives were trapped and eventually died in the collapsed building, while wishing the survivors a quick recovery.

"He has directed the Commissioner for Health to immediately take over the management of the survivors. Consequently, the governor has directed the Commissioner for Works and Fire Service to immediately set up a panel of inquiry to investigate the unfortunate incident."