

A Study of Control Measures of Building Collapse in Lagos State, Nigeria

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SUMMARY

Building collapse is a regular occurrence in Lagos State in Nigeria. In 2011/6, more than six (6) cases of fatal building collapses were recorded in Lagos State alone. This high incidence may be a reflection of high population of Lagos State and not necessarily due to its weaker building process. Building collapse is a situation where building which has been completed but not occupied, completed and occupied and under construction, tears apart without the influence of any party or agent. Building collapse in Lagos State is a waste of financial resources; in some cases, wastes of human life and waste of building materials. In the cases experienced over the years, it was found out that majority of building collapses were due to substandard building materials, bad design, wrong foundation, wrong site, bad usage of the structure, poor technology and inexperienced contractor. In most cases, the buildings do not have approved building plans from either the local government or state ministry of Land and Physical Planning. There is no state in Nigeria, out of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) that building collapse has not occurred in past ten (10) years. In some years, building collapse in Nigeria occurred in more than ten (10) places. If not controlled, building collapse can be disastrous. In Kenya, in 2015, eight buildings collapsed at the height of the rainy season recording more than 15 deaths. In a six story building collapse in Nairobi in 2016, more than 50 people were dead. In Nigeria, in 2015, more than 32 people were killed in a collapsed building in Lekki, Lagos State. This paper will adopt the mixed method of researches to espouse the control measures put in place in Lagos State, Nigeria, to avert the high incidence of building collapse. Questionnaires and direct interviews will be engaged for mining of primary data as well as searching newspapers, journals and newsletter of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in Lagos State.