

# Collapsed building claims one, injures three in Port Harcourt

**A** storey building which collapsed Tuesday at Benjamin Opara Street off Olu Obasanjo Road, Port Harcourt has claimed the life of one person while three were injured.

*Daily Trust* reports revealed that the building under construction collapsed at about 2.00pm trapping several workers and killing one instantly.

Eyewitnesses said the building collapsed while plastering work was going on.

Although the names of the victims are yet to be unknown, it was learnt that most of them were rescued by a combined team of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Shell's safety workers.

The state commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Stanley Marshal Umom, told newsmen that the building was being constructed with substandard materials and that the builders may be operating without permit from the

From Muhammad Ajah, Port Harcourt

ministry.

He said the owner will be declared wanted while the building would be pulled down after proper investigation is conducted to unravel the reason behind its collapse, saying a committee on verification of building plans had been set up by government to forestall occurrence of collapse building in the metropolis.

Cases of collapsed buildings have become a common phenomenon in the city. On Monday, April 10, 2006 at No 3, Tourist Beach Street, a building collapsed, killing two people. Also on June 9, a three-storey building under construction along Aba Road collapsed. On November 14, 2005, a church building belonging to the Greater Evangelism World Crusade at No 122 Azikiwe Street in Diobu also collapsed killing two occupants among other cases.