

Man, 65, Falls From Five-Storey Building, Dies In Edo

By **Francis Onoiribholo** - July 24, 2019



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BENIN – Moses Airiagbonkpa, 65 and father of five on Tuesday, died after falling from a lift of a five – storey building of Edo State High Court in Benin City.

Reports have it that Airiagbonkpa told his kinsmen at the court that he was going to urinate at the restroom soon after he was informed that the case he came for was no longer holding on that day.

Mr. Johnson Obanor, one of the kinsmen who came to the court with the deceased while narrating the incident told journalists that they were coming from Ugiewen Community in Oredo Local Government Area of the state and that they were having a court case that morning which was adjourned to another date.

Obanor, said having received that information from their lawyer, Mr. Airiagbonkpa (deceased) excused himself to go and urinate at the court's restroom but failed to return and this however compelled them to begin to search for him.

"We came here this morning, the three of us and we entered the court and sat down. We later discovered that the court was not sitting. So, we waited for the arrival of our lawyer and when she came she went to the table to go and take a new date.

A relative of the deceased said: "Airiagbonkpa then got up and told us he want to urinate and we told him to return early so that we can go home after the lawyer has taken a date.

"After taking the date, we waited for a long period but he did not show up. So, we assumed he has gone downstairs to wait for us where we parked our vehicle.

"Then I told the other man we should go to the parking lot to check if he is there but unfortunately we did not see him. We sat down in the vehicle and tried to contact him but he was not picking his calls.

"We decided to search for him within the premises and met a lawyer who asked us to join the crowd to climb the staircase.

"Sadly, we met our brother lying down on the floor and someone said he fell from upstairs. They traced the blood and found that he got trapped in the lift thinking the place was the court's restroom", he said.

Another distraught relative, Osasu Isoken who was called on the phone to be briefed of the ugly situation, blamed the construction company for not putting a signpost, indicating danger on the site.

"I was at the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID), when a brother of mine called me that Mr. Airiagbonkpa has fallen from the court's lift.

"Then, I went upstairs to check and I found out that he got trapped in the lift. The man is a learned man and I believe he will know that the place is not in use if there was a signpost indicating danger but there is nothing like that in there", he said.