

# Six killed in Ibadan building collapse

**A** TWO-STOREY building under construction collapsed yesterday in Ibadan, killing no fewer than six workers on site.

The only survivor, also a worker whose name was given as Wasiu, left the building unhurt. He was said to have left his fellow workers to ease himself in a nearby bush when the disaster occurred, trapping all the workers in it.

The number of casualties could not be ascertained as no one could give details of the exact number of workers on site yesterday.

By press time, hundreds of sympathisers and rescue workers were still battling to save lives.

Security was strengthened on the scene of the disaster, as policemen, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Ojoo police station, Mr. Aikila Austine, were positioned at strategic areas to prevent chaos.

There was no signpost on the construction site to show the name of the owner of the building or the name of the engineer handling the project.

The incident occurred at Trinity Sabo, Ojoo area of Ibadan, directly opposite Olona Petrol station.

According to eyewitness account, the two storey building collapsed at about

From Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan

10.40am yesterday.

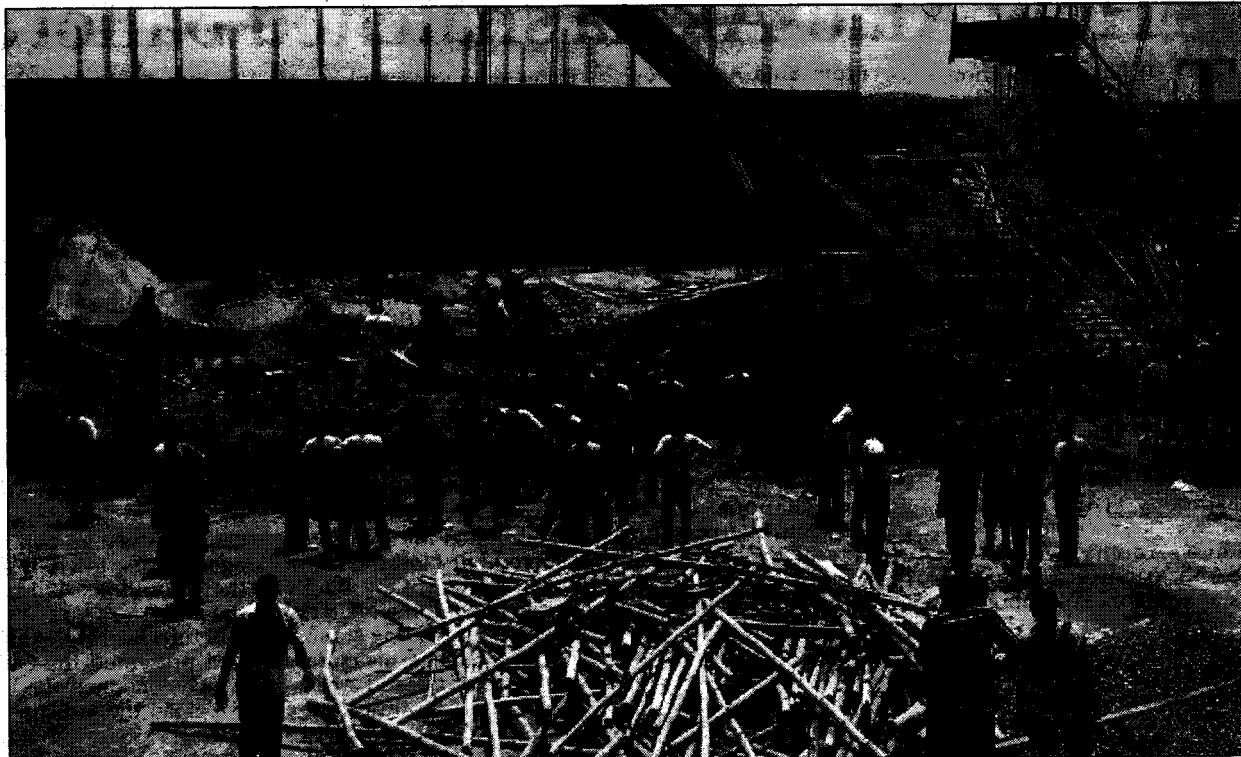
The only survivor could not talk, he was overwhelmed by emotions as he uttered speeches unintelligently. He was later kept away in a secluded place by the security men to help him regain his memory.

Initially, the lucky survivor was discovered on top of the debris, wailing and scratching the ground with his fingers when people came in to rescue the trapped workers, an eyewitness said.

It was not clear if the buildings, clutched together on the site, were intended for a shopping mall. Evidence shows it may be for a shopping complex as there are five different expansive structures under construction, out of which one of them collapsed yesterday.

The Oyo State Deputy Governor, Hon. Taofeek Arapaja was among the early visitors to the disaster zone. He said government would ensure that those responsible for the building would not go unpunished for wasting innocent lives.

"I feel very very sad because this involves lives of people, forget about the



• Rescue workers and sympathisers at the scene of the building... yesterday

PHOTO: FEMI ILESANMI

property. There are unspecified number of people trapped inside now. We've been trying frantically to save lives now. On getting to this site today, nobody was around, no engineer on site, nobody, even the owners were no where to be found. They are just risking the lives of innocent people of this country.

"I don't even know who approved this type of structure. This is how people really put the lives of our people in danger. Those who came to work

**'Initially, the lucky survivor was discovered on top of the debris, wailing and scratching the ground with his fingers when people came in to rescue the trapped workers'**

today to fend for their families, were trapped. They are

there trapped. We just pray to God that we find some lives there," the Deputy Governor said with deep emotion.

The Deputy Governor was said to have arrived about 40 minutes after the incident with the Akinyele Local Government Chairman, Chief Yemi Aderibigbe, whose Local Government was alleged to have given approval for the construction of the collapsed building. Aderibigbe could not speak on the incident yesterday.

Men of the Oyo State Fire

Service led by the Director, Mr. Ismaila Gbolagade Oladipo, were handicapped as they lacked the necessary equipment to excavate the debris and huge pillars of the collapsed building.

About four hours later, the Construction giant, Reynolds Construction Company (RCC) brought in its earth moving equipment following the intervention of the Deputy Governor, who personally went to the yard of the company to request for the equipment.

## Osun House minority leader gets bail

From Wale Folarin, Osogbo

**A**N Osogbo Magistrate's Court has granted bail to the minority leader of the Osun State House of Assembly, Timothy Owoeye, who was remanded in prison two weeks ago.

He was arrested by the police at the premises of

the House of Assembly while going for the swearing in of the Action Congress (AC) lawmakers, but was released following the intervention of the Speaker, Hon Adejare Bello.

Owoeye, who is representing Ilesa East constituency, was arraigned in court the following day on a four-count charge of conspiracy, arson, rioting and breach of public peace.

When the case came up yesterday, Magistrate Jide

Falola granted bail to the lawmaker at N10 million and two sureties in like sum.

Falola also directed that the sureties should be members of the House of Assembly or holders of property