

One dies, three injured in Edo building collapse

From Osagie Otabor, Benin

ONE person died yesterday and three others sustained serious injuries when a part of a shopping mall under construction collapsed in Benin.

The three storey-building is being built along Sapele Road.

One of the survivors, Sunday Oniuvusa, is a graduate of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Benin.

Four workers were said to be on top of the building when some parts of where they were pouring concrete on the top floor caved in.

Eyewitnesses said the four workers fell as a pillar formed to hold the concrete collapsed.

The deceased, who was identified as Mike Matthew, died when a wood pierced his neck.

All the victims were rushed to the Central hospital where they are receiving treatment while the corpse of the deceased has been deposited at the hospital's mortuary.

One of the victims, who pleaded anonymity on the hospital bed, said they were working when they suddenly went down.

The victim said they were hired at N3, 000 per day and that the concrete they were using fell on them as they landed on the ground.

He said the supervisor that was contracted for the project narrowly escaped as he was few meters away from the place that gave way.

Sunday Oniuvusa said: "Some of the blocks that fell prevented the planks on the ground from harming us; I was lucky. But in the boy's case, there was nothing to protect him so one of the planks pierced his chest."

The sub-contractor and supervisor, Morris Omoregiey, said: "I'm directly involved because I lost someone. I called them to place the concrete and their form work collapsed."

"The work form was supposed to hold everything until 21 days. They are my persons, so I am the one handling the medical bills so far."

The owner of the building could not be veri-

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