

# 13-year-old girl dies in Ekiti building collapse

Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti

A 13-year-old girl died in the collapse of an ancient building in Igede Ekiti, headquarters of Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area, on Tuesday.

Sources said about four residents of the house were injured in the incident and receiving medical attention in hospitals.

One of the children of the landlord, Lanre Olagunju, said that the incident occurred around 2am on Tuesday adding that one casualty was recorded.

Olagunju spoke during the visit of the state governor, Mr Biodun Oyeibanji, who was represented by the deputy governor, Mrs Monisade Afuye, to the scene.

He said, "The building didn't give prior notice or sign before the sudden collapse".

The governor, who grieved over the 13-year old girl's death, described the incident as devastating and agonising as he called on occupants of dilapidated buildings across the state to relocate to save their lives.

He said, "This is one incident that really saddened my heart. How could we lose a precious human life to such an avoidable circumstance? The building must have been giving some signs for long.

"If you check very well, the adjoining buildings are not even safe. The government agents will visit here soon to assess those houses and probably pull them down.

"I sympathise with the family and admirers of the victims. This is indeed a trying time for all of us, but we must learn one or two lessons from this and take actions



• The collapsed building. Photo: Abiodun Nejo

that would safeguard our lives by being careful with the choice of buildings we will live in".

Oyeibanji, who also visited

Adeyinka Adebayo General Hospital, Iyin Ekiti, where some of the victims were receiving medicare, said that

the government would foot the victims' medical bills.

The governor said he had directed the Commissioner for Health, Dr Oyeibanji Filani, to oversee the victims' medical treatments and ensure that they were given the best to fast-track their full recovery.

He also directed the Ekiti State Emergency Management Agency to arrange for another habitable residence for the emballed family.

Oyeibanji also said that to forestall such occurrence in the state, the Ministry of Physical and Urban Planning would begin aggressive enforcement of laws that would dislodge those living in dangerously uninhabitable buildings across the state.

He said, "We have enough regulations and extant laws that guide buildings in Ekiti and our

people should comply while trying to apply these laws; it is for their benefit, which is to ensure safety and avoidable loss of the

precious lives of our people.

"We want to appeal to our people, especially those still living in residences suspected to be dilapidated to quickly relocate so that nobody will suffer such calamity again in our dear state," the governor said.

## Boska donates 1,000 helmets

Temitope Aina

A healthcare company, Boska, and the Federal Road Safety Corps have partnered to donate 1,000 helmets to commercial motorcycle riders in Sokoto State.

A statement obtained by PUNCH Metro Tuesday disclosed that the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Sokoto, Hassan Maikano, launched the contribution campaign while stating that the programme was designed to raise safety standards and lower accident



• A cross-section of the beneficiaries.