

4 workers buried alive in Bells Varsity accident

By Kolade Larewaju

ABEOKUTA — TRAGEDY struck Tuesday at the Bells University of Technology, Ota, Ogun State, when four construction workers were killed in an accident at a

construction site on the campus. Two others were seriously injured.

The accident, attributed to a landslide, occurred around 4.00pm. The victims were buried alive.

Vanguard gathered that the victims who were employees

of a construction firm engaged in the building of the university's multi-million naira library were digging the grounds around a concrete floor on which the library was

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to be built. They had dug to a depth of four metres when the sand they had dug and piled up unexpectedly shifted and buried them in the ground.

Senior workers of the construction company and some members of staff of the university were said to have immediately contacted men of the fire service who battled in vain to rescue them. It took the firemen over an hour before they could remove the sand and locate the victims.

The injured were rushed to a private hospital in Ota for treatment while the remains of those who died were taken to the morgue of the General Hospital, Ota.

When *Vanguard* visited the institution yesterday, work had stopped at the site while the workers were standing in groups discussing the incident. One of them who volunteered to talk to *Vanguard*

said the landslide came when all of them were bending down in the digging process.

"There was nothing we could do. We had to start digging and you know we had to be careful not to hit them. It took the fire people over one hour to get to them."

Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Adeyemi, described the incident as unfortunate, noting that the construction was given to a com-

petent firm. He said the institution called the fire service men when the accident occurred and that every effort was made to rescue the victims.

Efforts by *Vanguard* to speak with officials of the company proved abortive as several hours' wait at the site for a top official said to be coming in from Abuja did not yield any fruit as he did not arrive before press time.

Ekiti denies withdrawing Dep Gov's aides

EKITI State government yesterday dismissed speculations that Governor Ayo Fayose had withdrawn the security and personal aides of his deputy, Mrs. Biodun Olujimi, as false.

Press Secretary to the Dep-

uty Governor, Mr. Dipo Okunmuyide in a statement in Ado-Ekiti said: "As I am writing this denial, the Deputy Governor is in her office with all security and personal aides, including myself going about our normal duty."

He also described reports