

BY YAHUDU KITUNZI

MBALE. A deadly building collapse in Kachumbala cell, Namakwekwe Ward, commonly known as Namakwekwe Estate in Northern Division, Mbale City, killed one person and injured several others.

A preliminary report by the National Building Review Board (NBRB) blames the incident on construction failures.

The deceased was identified as Andrew Wonyakara, a builder.

The NBRB's Investigations Department and Enforcement Unit said the structure had no building permit or approved architectural drawings and had been illegally converted from a semi-detached house into a multi-storey building. "Technical assessments pointed

household follow-ups of 1,886 caregivers identified through health centre

ment-seeking decisions. Higher levels of education enabled

"We know the dynam

Construction failures caused Mbale building collapse - NBRB

to poor concrete quality, with samples showing excessive fine aggregates and irregular coarse aggregate sizing.

Reinforcement bars were faulty and inconsistently lapped, leaving the building structurally unstable," the report said.

Investigators also found the foundation was too shallow to carry the load. Beyond the structural flaws, they noted poor workmanship and a lack of professional supervision during construction.

Samples have been sent to the Engineering Laboratory for further testing. Final results are expected to give a clearer picture of what caused the collapse.

Mr Herbert Zziwa, the communica-

tions manager at the NBRB, called the incident "a tragic reminder of the consequences of compromising building standards." "Cutting corners in design, materials, or approvals puts lives at serious risk and leads to avoidable losses," he said.

Advice

He urged developers to hire qualified professionals and secure all approvals from the relevant building committees. The NBRB said it is continuing investigations to ensure accountability and prevent similar tragedies.

Civil engineer Samuel Okwi echoed the call for professionalism. "Developers

must prioritise safety by engaging qualified professionals and securing all necessary approvals from relevant building committees," he said.

The collapse has also raised questions about oversight in Mbale City. Mr Dan Mukhwana accused the city council of focusing on collecting fees instead of inspections.

He alleged officials charge between Shs2 million and Shs4 million for multi-storey building approvals but rarely visit sites to check standards, allowing substandard work to go unchecked.

Mbale City Clerk Assy Abirebe said investigations are underway and warned that any officials found to have ap-

proved the structure will be held accountable. He said construction of the building had started about three years ago. President Museveni signed the Building Control (Amendment) Act to strengthen safety and standards.

The law states that if a physical planner issues land titles in wetlands and building later collapses, everyone who authorised the construction must account for their actions.

The NBRB was set up under the Building Control Act of 2013 under the Ministry of Works and Transport. Its role is to oversee developments, enforce standards, and promote safe, sustainable and accessible buildings across Uganda.