

# Power Failure Causes Woman's Death At Owo FMC

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Residents of Imoru, Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State are currently in grief as power failure led to the sudden death of a 58-year-old woman, Mrs. Jegede Christiana at the Federal Medical Centre, Owo in Ondo State.

The children of the deceased alleged that their mother would have survived the ailment but for prolonged power outage and unavailability of alternative source of power.

Speaking with Daily Independent, the deceased's son, Mr. Jegede Olamide, said his mother died as a result of the negligence of the hospital authority that failed to sustain power supply needed for operations at the facility

He explained that when his mother took ill, she was rushed to Oba Israel Adewusi General Hospital in Ifon. She was diagnosed with chronic haemolysis and thereafter referred to FMC, Owo for treatment.

On Tuesday, April 7, when the trader cum farmer was taken to FMC, Owo, her packed cell volume (PCV) was said to have dropped from 18 per cent recorded at Ifon hospital to 15 per cent.

Having spent two days at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the FMC, the deceased was moved to the Female Medical Ward, where her health condition has improved after she had undergone multiple blood transfusions.

Olamide disclosed that “She received four pints of blood between Tuesday and Saturday, and her PCV rose to 19 per cent. The blood in her urine had started reducing, and she was responding to treatment.”

But the her health deteriorated on Sunday when the nurses on duty could not carry the blood transfusion prescribed by the doctor due prolonged power outage which made it impossible for the hospital laboratory to carry out blood grouping and cross-matching.

There was said to have been power outage since midnight and was not restored until 10am, within when the patient's condition had worsened.

According to Olamide, “We were told there was no electricity and nothing could be done. We had to wait until almost 10 a.m. before power was restored and the process carried out.

“The blood was eventually administered, but her system could no longer absorb it. It was too late.”

In her own account, the first daughter of the deceased, Folakemi Adedigba, described their experience at the hospital as traumatic and evitable .

She said her mother died a result of systemic failures within the facility.

Folakemi explained that four donors were on standby, awaiting cross-matching, because they knew her mother needed blood transfusion urgently as her organs were failing gradually.

She said: “Even one of the doctors had to rush to the laboratory to press for urgent attention, but there was nothing they could do without electricity.”

According to her, in their attempt to save her mother, Folakemi disclosed that she offered to provide N100,000 to buy diesel for the hospital generator to power the hospital.

But to her chagrin she was told the generator was faulty and could not be used.

She queried: “How can a laboratory not have 24-hour electricity or backup power? We got there at 6:30 am, and waited for solar light for over three hours. This is not just about the lab scientists; it is a failure of the system.”

Lamenting the untimely death of her mother, Folakemi disclosed that her mother was denied admission when she arrived at the hospital due to unavailability of bed space.

“She was left in the car for about five hours the day we arrived at FMC, bleeding, before we found a doctor who intervened. There was no empathy.

“If I were daughter of a powerful person, would they have treated her this way?”

Folakemi described the condition of the hospital facility as worrisome, disclosing that at the Female Medical Ward, patients were fanned with papers by their relatives due poor ventilation.

She said the ceiling fans installed in the ward had seen better days and stopped working.

The deceased family has called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the evitable death of their mother.

Responding to the development, the Public Relations Officer of FMC, Owo, Mr. Olufunso Ijanusi, said the hospital management had not received a formal report on the incident.

He assured that a preliminary inquiry would be conducted.

“We are aware of the concerns being raised, but I must state that we are yet to get a comprehensive report on the matter.

“However, the management will look into the allegations and take appropriate steps where necessary,” Ijanusi said.

Although Ijanusi said the hospital has mechanisms in place to handle emergencies and provide alternative power supply, he declined further comment on the specific circumstances surrounding the alleged power outage at the laboratory.