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Family kicks over death of Ibadan school headmistress



• *Hospitals allegedly rejected her repeatedly*

The family of a school headmistress, Mrs Ajayi Omowunmi Fajuyigbe, has raised concerns over the state of health emergency services in Ibadan, following the death of their loved one.

Mrs Fajuyigbe reportedly died after she was rejected by several hospitals in the Oyo State capital.

The deceased headmistress of the Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association (NAOWA) Model Nursery and Primary School, Letmuck Barracks, Mokola was said to have been taken in an ambulance from a military hospital to several public and private health facilities across the city on the night of Monday, January 13 before she eventually died.

In a personal account, a sister to the deceased, Mrs. Olawore Opeyemi, described the experience as traumatic and emblematic of the failures within the nation's health system, particularly emergency medical services.

According to her, the patient was moved overnight from one hospital to another within Ibadan, including facilities in Mokola, Odogbo, Adeoyo, Oluyoro, Basorun and other areas, but was allegedly denied admission on various grounds.

The family said the seventh hospital, a private Hospital in Idi-Ape, Ibadan—eventually admitted the patient at about 1:00 a.m. after what they described as the payment of a substantial sum of money.

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However, Olawore alleged that despite the admission, the urgent surgery required was not carried out before her sister went into coma and later died.

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“It is painful that hospitals appear more interested in money than saving lives. Someone was brought in alive and she died just hours after admission?”

The incident has renewed public debate on the absence of effective emergency response systems in Nigerian hospitals and the growing shortage of medical personnel, largely attributed to the ongoing exodus of doctors and other health professionals from the country.

She wondered why hospitals would turn away emergency patients at night and expressed concern that silence over such experiences would only allow avoidable deaths to continue.

“This is unacceptable in Ibadan, a city often described as a pacesetter. My sister’s life could have been saved if she had received prompt attention,” Olawore said.

She however called on government authorities to urgently address gaps in emergency medical care and tackle the manpower crisis in the health sector.

