

Killer Meal: CMD blames police for failure to conduct autopsy

The chief medical director of National Hospital, Abuja, Dr. Olusegun Ajuwon, has blamed the police for the hospital's failure to carry out autopsy on the bodies of the late family of five.

It would be recalled that Livinus Iliya, his wife and their three children died after a meal two weeks ago at Ukp-ebi village, a suburb of Abuja and some 15kms behind highbrow Asokoro district.

Dr. Ajuwon told newsmen in Abuja yesterday that the hospital could not carry out the autopsy due to the failure of the police to write a coroner request to the hospital.

"Once there is a request/report from the police to carry

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma,
with agency report

out an autopsy, it becomes official. Money is not the issue here," he said.

He said there was no space in the hospital's mortuary to keep the corpses and that was why no autopsy could be carried out on them.

"The fact of the matter is that there was no space to keep the bodies. The National Hospital has the expertise, if we are required to provide expertise for autopsy. We can do it; we cannot refuse, but we are asking, after the autopsy, what happens to the bodies?" he asked.

He denied allegations that the hospital failed to carry

out autopsy because the relatives of the dead family could not afford the N7, 000 demanded by the hospital.

He said the hospital charged N1, 500 per person on emergency cases, whether dead or alive for record purposes.

"It is a police case and so the family should not cry for money. The hospital is not even crying for money. The police were supposed to take charge and bring the coroner request and we would ask our pathologists to go wherever they chose to do the autopsy," he said.

It would be recalled that a relative of the dead family, Jafet Iliya, had to bury the decomposed bodies after

being left on the bare floor of Asokoro General Hospital for three days.

According to the hospital, the mortuary was full; that was why the corpses were kept on the floor of the facility.

Although the corpses were referred to the National

Hospital for autopsy, as there was no pathologist at Asokoro hospital, neither autopsy nor embalmment was done because he could not pay the N7, 000 demanded.

The corpses had to be taken back to Asokoro hospital before they were removed for burial.

When contacted, the FCT police commissioner, Mr Lawrence Alobi, said that no request for a coroner's report was received by the police.

He wondered how the report could be sent to the hospital without anybody coming forward for such report.

Phone operator charged with N.4m fraud

A commercial mobile phone operator allegedly defrauded an MTN supplier of thousands of naira, an Abuja Magistrates' Court heard yesterday.

**By Mohammed Lawal Shuaibu
& Fumilayo Ibikunle**

Emmanuel, said the accused person was guilty of the offence. He said during investigation some

which was read out to her by the court registrar. She said the allegation was not true.

The defence counsel, A. F. Obainoke, prayed the court to grant her bail.

Granting the defence