

Footballer dies unattended to at Abuja National Hospital

A footballer, who suffered burns in a fire incident and was rushed to Abuja National Hospital under emergency situation, stayed unattended to for four hours until he went into comma and later died.

The footballer, Ajayi Dare (of the Department of National Civic Registration), was on January 8 taken to the National Hospital from Asokoro General Hospital when a doctor detected an unusual growth of his head and carried out tests that showed he had a malfunctioning kidney.

The sick patient was conveyed to the National Hospital by an ambulance attached with medical personnel who submitted the tests carried out at Asokoro and told the National Hospital officials that the patient needed to be placed on a dialysis machine immediately.

Mr Seth Adjei, a relation of the deceased, said Dare inhaled a lot of smoke and suffered burns on the body during a fire incident that en-

By Abubakar Yakubu

gulfed his room at Nyanya on January 3.

"Right from January 3 till the evening of January 8, the doctors at Asokoro Hospital had been treating him until Dr Omole noticed an unusual growth of his head and carried out tests that showed he had a malfunctioning kidney and need to be placed urgently on a dialysis machine," he said.

He said the doctor emphasized that the patient needed to be placed on that machine before eight hours and named Abuja Clinic and National Hospital as having such a machine.

"When we got to National Hospital at 5pm last Tuesday, we were told that all the doctors were busy and instead of placing the patient on a dialysis machine as requested by the doctor that referred us, the National Hospital staff decided to carry out their own tests, which he said came out the next day at 2pm," he lamented.

He said the sick man was left unattended to for four hours until he went into a comma.

"It was only when he was in comma that five doctors came to attend to him and started practicing their theory and requested that he be placed on oxygen," he added.

The relative remarked that by the time the hospital's test came out, the patient's condition had deteriorated and it was already too late to place him on a dialysis machine.

He said Ajayi Dare died at around 5.15pm on January 9 and that the family met another stumbling block in getting his body out of the mortuary for burial.

"After his death, we settled all his hospital bills and asked for his death certificate which was turned down by the doctors," the relation said.

Our reporter who was with the deceased family observed that the doctor that certified the patient dead was not willing to sign the death certificate until an autopsy is conducted on the body to

determine the real cause of death.

The family being Deeper Life members did not want to waste money on an autopsy, which they learnt was N50,000 and rather wanted the quick procession of the death certificate to enable them to bury the deceased.

At around 5pm Friday, when the family were told that the death certificate could not be issued without an autopsy, they took their complaint to the chief medical director of the hospital, Dr Segun Ajuwon, who sympathised with them and immediately directed the head of department to liaise with the chief matron in processing the deceased person's file and getting a doctor to sign the death certificate.

The death certificate was finally signed on January 12 by Dr Obianchi. The primary cause of death in the certificate was attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest while the secondary cause was stated as ARF, septicoromia, inhalational injury, and second degree burns.

Our reporter followed the family members inside the mortuary and noticed a circular that stated that before

a body is released those requesting must submit a death certificate, warrant to bury, evidence of payment of mortuary fees, evidence of autopsy, particularly in medico-legal cases and a release certificate signed by the head of department of the mortuary.

The mortuary official after collecting the death certificate and evidence of payments of all hospital expenses brought out a form filled by the family and him and later gave a copy to the family before releasing the body which was taken into a bus provided by the department of National Civic Registration.

At Nyanya cemetery, a large crowd consisting of the deceased football colleagues as well as neighbours and

friends gathered. Pastor Friday Ejika, who officiated at the cemetery, informed the crowd that they would all return to the ground one day. He advised them to change their ways of life and get closer to God by serving him faithfully as every one would one day be called to account for his deeds before God.

The assistant director information services, National Hospital, Nalam Yahaya Uzi Sadiq, when asked why doctors at National Hospital do not rely on other hospital's tests results said the question is a professional one that can only be answered by the hospital's doctors.

He advised the reporter to come to the hospital to see him so that he can follow-up the issue.

Demolition: Karu Abattoir squatters panic over sight of bulldozer

Squatters around Karu abattoir in the Federal Capital Territory were over the weekend seen packing their belongings from buildings marked as illegal

By Abubakar Yakubu, with agency report

opment control, Mr Ali Ateasi, told the News Agency of Nigeria Saturday that the demolition of some