

MAD COW KILLS FLORA NWAPA'S EX-DRIVER

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A rampaging mad cow recently threw residents of Owerri, the Imo State capital into confusion when it reportedly killed Mr. Aloysius Ohaegbulem Amadi, 61.

Amadi, who was a driver to the late popular novelist, Mrs. Flora Nwapa, left an aged mother, Mrs. Martina Amadi, a wife, Mrs. Pauline Amadi (a retired nurse, as well as five children behind. According to his second son, Emmanuel Amadi, the mad cow was said to have descended heavily on its victim, tearing his right lap with one of its horns after hitting his groin.

The late Ohaegbulem Amadi, who hailed from Umuotunwanyi village of Obodo Ahiara autonomous community in Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State, worked as a professional driver from the early 1970s till his tragic end. He returned to Mbaise his country home in 2012.

Narrating his ordeal to Sunday Trust, the natives, who described him as a kind gentleman, disclosed that he was about to load passengers into a Mitsubishi L300 bus he operated along Mbaise-Owerri Road when he met his sudden death on Saturday, March 22, 2014. It was along the ever busy Mbaise Road.

Also narrating his ordeal, Emmanuel said he could not get help from anybody as everybody took to their heels, leaving him at the mercy of the cow. He further alleged that workers at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Owerri, where he was rushed to by officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), also abandoned him as he continued to bleed until the last drop flowed out of him.

"I believe he died as a result of abandonment. They waited for his children to bring money so they could start treatment. The FRSC officials called to inform us that my dad was speaking soundly when they handed him over to the FMC. That was how my father died," Emmanuel told our reporter during an interview.

But speaking to Sunday Trust, medical director of the FMC, simply identified as Dr. Uwakwem, expressed surprise that somebody would make such a false allegation.

"It is not in the practice of the FMC to abandon a patient, whether brought by the FRSC or not. It is the ethics of our profession to take care of people. We have nursed people (patients) for three months without waiting for relatives to come and bring money. Our main interest is to save life; money is secondary. Road safety officials have brought a number of people to FMC here and they know we treated such people without waiting for the relatives to bring money first.

"I don't know exactly what happened in the man's case. I will give you the accurate information when I see his record," she said.

Lamenting the demise of her son, the 80-year-old and visibly traumatised Mrs. Martina Amadi said, "Every morning he would come to ask how I was feeling. He was a friend of all. I am going to miss him quite a lot. There can be no replacement for Aloy, my son."

Also speaking, the victim's widow, Mrs. Pauline Amadi said, "All I have to say is that everyone should be strong in prayer. The way he died was an act of God and we have accepted it," she said.

Saying that her husband was an industrious and well-mannered man, Pauline recalled that they had lived in peace since 1979 when they got married.

"We got married in 1979 and since then we never had a fight. Really, as husband and wife, we used to have misunderstandings, but we never fought. He was well-mannered and very industrious," she said.

On his own part, the late Amadi's first son, Mr. Nicholas Ogedi Amadi said that his father was Flora Nwapa's personal driver for about 12 years. He recalled how his father maintained a cordial employer-employee relationship with the late novelist, saying, "They had very good rapport. Everything about his job was absolutely well. And even

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up to the time of his sudden death, our father still communicated with the Nwapa family. He always remembered the family of the novelist because he loved them. That's all I can remember for now."

He said his father resigned from Nwapa's appointment when his salary was no longer sufficient for the demands of a large family.

The police public relations officer, Imo State command, Joy Elemoko confirmed the incident, saying it is still under investigation.

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