

Child birth: How I lost my wife through ignorance - Butcher

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

A butcher residing at the Command area, Meiran, in the Alimoso Local Government Area of Lagos, Mr. Wasiu Oseni, is yet to recover from the shock of the death of his wife, Isiwatu, who died during child birth three years ago.

Oseni fought back tears while narrating the ugly incident during the Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) community outreach in Lagos.

The butcher recalled that when his wife was in the labour room in a private hospital, the doctor there advised her to settle for the Caesarean Section surgery but she refused.

He said: "She didn't want CS and my in-laws too rejected the idea. My sister-in-law eventually suggested that we should take her sister to a traditional birth attendant. My wife also supported the idea of taking her to the TBA.

"At that point, I became

confused. I eventually succumbed and that was how we took the woman to the TBA. When we got there, I was asked to pay N5,000, which I paid instantly. After some time, I realised that there was no progress and she was in pains. The owner of the TBA eventually advised us to move her to another hospital. Unfortunately, she died on the way to the other hospital."

Oseni regretted not heeding the advice of the doctor at the first hospital for the CS to be done,

which he believed could have saved his wife's life.

"But I didn't want to appear as if I was imposing my decision on my wife and my in-laws at that crucial period. My failure to take a risk and decide wisely at the appropriate time caused the death of my wife and I have not recovered from the psychological trauma. I still love my wife and I miss her. The burden of taking care of the other children she left has overwhelmed me and I don't want to marry another woman

now so as not to subject the kids to another danger," he said.

The Executive Director of Mothers & Beyond, a non-profit organization, Mrs Bolaji Olagbaju, said the MNCH community outreach was her initiative to create awareness on maternal and new-born mortality. Olagbaju, lamenting that the rate of women dying from pregnancy complications was disturbing, urged pregnant women to always ensure proper antenatal care.

NAEDAC takes anti-