

7 ex-Airways workers die waiting for approved benefits

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Seven former employees of the defunct Nigerian Airways have passed away in the last one week as they awaited their pensions.

The Federal Government last month approved the payment of N45 billion as pensions and gratuities of former workers of the liquidated national carrier.

However, the workers said since the approval was given, nothing had been heard from either the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) or the Aviation Ministry.

The Chairman, Nigerian Airways Elders' Forum, Mr. Godwin Jibodu who spoke to journalists, listed the deceased as Capt. Asuquo, Capt. Akintaju, Mr K. C. Amah, Mrs Bose Oladumiye, Mr. Onyebuchi Anunobi, Mrs Adebayo Awoyinka, Mr. T. Bellgam and Mr. Ebenezer Akinbode.

He said, "We have lost seven colleagues within the last one week because they could not afford proper treatment for their ailments. This is very sad because the government has approved N45 billion for payment of our pensions and gratuities."

He appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to fast-track the payment of the entitlements, saying, “There is so much silence and we don’t know who is delaying the payment and it is very unfortunate.”