

Killer Meal: CMD Blames Police For Failure To Carry Out Autopsy

Chief Medical Director, National Hospital, Abuja, Dr. Olusegun Ajuwon, has blamed the police for the hospital's failure to carry out autopsy on bodies of the family of five that died after eating a meal.

Livinus Iliya, his wife and three children died after a meal two weeks ago at Ukpebi Village, a suburb in Abuja, and some 15kms behind highbrow Asokoro District.

Ajuwon said the hospital could not carry out the autopsy due to failure of the police to write a coroner's request to the hospital.

"Once there is a request/report from the police to carry out an autopsy, it becomes official, money is not the issue here, but nobody saw such request," he said.

Ajuwon also said that there was no space in the hospital's mortuary to keep the bodies and that was why they could not carry out autopsy on them.

"The fact of the matter is that there was no space to keep the

bodies, National Hospital has the expertise if we are required to provide expertise for autopsy," he added.

"We can do it, we cannot refuse, but we are saying after the autopsy what happens to the bodies," the CMD asked?

On allegations that the hospital failed to carry out autopsy because the relatives of the dead family could not afford the N7,000 demanded, Ajuwon denied the allegation.

Ajuwon explained that the hospital charges 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 was supposed to take charge and bring the coroner's request and we would ask our pathologist 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 filled to capacity and 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 N7,000 being 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 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 any such report.