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Traditional Birth Attendant Arrested Over Death Of Pregnant Woman

NAN

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An attendant at a mission home in Akure is in the custody of the Ondo State Police Command for allegedly causing the death of a pregnant woman, Mrs Lola Fakuajo, 28.

The state's Commissioner for Health, Dr Dayo Adeyanju, made this public in Akure on Thursday while briefing newsmen on the incident.

Adeyanju, who said traditional birth attendants had been directed to always refer pregnant women to recognised health centres, added that the mission home in which the victim was attended to was located in an unhygienic environment.

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"The church which serves as the mission home looks like a food kiosk and is located in a very dirty environment.

"On hearing that the woman had died, the attendant took to her heels and it took a lot of efforts for government officials to arrest her in the house where she reportedly hid under the bed," he said.

Adeyanju, however, pledged that the state government would explore all means to drive its infant and maternal campaign so that pregnancy "would no longer be a death sentence."

This resolve, he said, informed the "Agbebiye" initiative launched by government in partnership with traditional birth attendants and mission home operators.

Also shedding light on the incident, Dr Adesina Akintan, the Chief Medical Director of Mother and Child Hospital, Akure, said the patient was brought late in a bad condition, resulting in her death.

Mrs Funmilola Oluwadare, the Special Assistant to the Governor on Maternal Death Reduction, also condemned the flouting of government's directive.

But speaking to newsmen, the attendant said the victim only came for prayers at the mission home and not to give birth.

The husband of the deceased, Mr Sunday Fakuajo, who was in tears, declined to speak to newsmen.

Mr Wole Ogodo, the spokesman of the state police command, said he had not been briefed on the incident. (NAN)

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