

## Family Alleges Foul Play For Death Of Woman After Delivery At Gombe Specialist Hospital.

BY CHUWANG DUNG, Gombe

The family of a 29-year-old, Helen Audu, who died at the Gombe State Specialist hospital Gombe, on the 5th of April, 2017 after delivering a baby girl, has petitioned National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to urgently step up investigation into the matter.

In the petition, Rebecca's husband, Mr. Garba Audu, said despite fulfilling all requirements for his wife's surgery, his wife died due to administration of incompatible blood.

The husband, who alleged negligence on the part of the hospital staff, is appealing to the commission to order inquiry into the circumstances of the death of his wife and seek ways of settling the matter. Narrating the sad story to our correspondent in Gombe, the 36 years old husband of Helen who hails from Kauri LGA in Kaduna State says his wife was admitted to the maternity unit of the hospital in the early hours of Wednesday 5th, April, 2017 after undergoing delayed labour throughout the night. He said after she was examined, the doctor in charge told him that she would undergo surgery and as such, he was asked to look for a blood donor which he did.

"Knowing that my wife belonged to the same blood group, O+, with her brother, Yohanna Maichibi, I quickly asked him to come, which he did."

According to him his in-law donated his blood

after thorough screening but unfortunately, the blood was carelessly exchanged with that of another patient who is in group B during transfusion.

"My wife is in blood O+ group, but one of the nurses on duty that day substituted it with a blood B which was supposed to be administered to another patient and that resulted to her death." He said.

He noted that after she was administered the blood, she reacted and her condition started deteriorating immediately after she delivered successfully at about 8pm.

Audu, said when the doctor and the nurses realised the catastrophic error they made efforts to save her by administering the right blood but she died in the late hours as a result of excessive bleeding.

He said the most annoying aspect of the sad story is the attempt by the hospital authority to cover-up the matter by claiming it was an unavoidable tragedy.

"My fears started when the medical director started giving me some defensive medical explanation claiming that her death should not be linked to the transfusion, I then became suspicious of possible manipulations."

"After giving me all the assurance that the matter would be thoroughly investigated, he became reluctant claiming that my wife's death should not be linked to what transpired."

But the medical director (MD) of the Specialist hospital, Dr. Arnold Abel categorically refutes any suggestion of a "cover-up" or wrongdoing and said it had fully co-operated with the family of the victim.

He told LEADERSHIP Friday in medical terms that even though the death of Helen might not be directly linked to what transpired as her husband is claiming, the management of the hospital is on top of the matter.

"What happened is not uncommon, because there are cases of transmission reaction, it is very possible that her death is not directly linked to what her husband is claiming."

The medical director said as soon as the matter was reported to him, he summoned a management meeting with all the staff that were involved and a committee was immediately set-up to investigate the matter to ascertain what actually transpired.

Abel said the committee has since submitted their findings and it has been forwarded to the state Ministry of health for the next line of action.

The MD, who refused to disclose the committee findings, also confirmed the receipt of the petition from the NHRC.

"We received a petition regarding the issue from the human rights commission and we have since responded and all correspondence regarding the case has been forwarded to our mother Ministry." He said.