

LUTH Neurosurgeon Dies After Working For 72 Hours

BY OLAMIDE OJUOKAIYE, Lagos

House officers at Lagos State Teaching Hospital (LUTH), yesterday expressed anger over poor working conditions and the death of a house officer, Dr. Umoh Michael, for allegedly working for 72 hours.

Our correspondent gathered that Dr Michael allegedly died on September 17, after being on a 72-hour-call in the Neurosurgery Unit.

He was said to have been on call for the duration before arriving home on Sunday

morning for church service, and slumped in his worship centre (United Evangelical Church.) at about 11:00 am

Colleagues of the deceased medical practitioner have raised concerns over poor working conditions as they are given stressful call hours without breaks, feeding and good accommodation.

According to a letter written by medical doctors under the aegis of the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), LUTH chapter, to the Chief Medical Director, LUTH, Prof. Wasiu Lanre Adeyemo, it was

stated that the late doctor's roommate attested to the fact that the deceased had hardly slept in their apartment for the past one week.

They claimed that Dr. Michael's roommate stated that he was always on call and had returned home after surgeries and other activities in the Neurosurgery unit at about 3:00 a.m.

"We have long-standing challenges since we resumed horsemanship here and one most striking challenge is the bullying we receive from our senior colleagues, stressful

call hours without breaks in between, no call food, and no good accommodation"

As a result, they request that House officers who did call the previous day should be allowed either half day the next day or be allowed to resume work by midday the following day. House officers should not be made to work 48 hours at a stretch.

They also stated that there should be compulsory Health checks at the beginning of House job and should be free or grossly subsidized for House Officers.