

Killer-kerosine deaths rising

TWO-weeks-old baby Jonathan Oloye yesterday succumbed to severe fire burns from kerosene explosion, one week after he was admitted at the Warri Central Hospital.

No fewer than four new cases were reported across the city yesterday morning.

The infant's death ended his one-week battle against death. His was among two more deaths recorded at the hospital. A woman, Mrs. Esther Mamana, was said to be in "very critical case but still breathing yesterday."

The child's grief-stricken father, unemployed NCE-holder Mr. Williams Oloye, told *The Nation*: "I rushed to buy the drugs prescribed for him, but when I got back he was already dead."

The fates of about 20 other victims at the hospital was hanging in the balance, following revelations that the senior staff of the Pharmacy Department were unwilling to release expensive drugs needed for their treatment.

A source at the Pharmacy Department told our correspondent: "We do not have drugs. The few we have here, we are rationing them because they are very expensive."

Besides, it was gathered that senior staff of the department were unwilling to release expensive drugs needed to cater for the burns victim, in spite of the promise by Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan to pick the bills.

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

Relatives of the burns victims were being asked to source drugs from external pharmacies where they would be required to pay cash.

A visibly unimpressed Dr. Peter Oside, Chief Consultant Surgeon at the hospital, was overhead berating an official of the pharmacy over his unwillingness to release drugs needed to treat the victims. "Are you not aware that the governor promised to foot the bills?" he asked the recalcitrant pharmacist.

Uduaghan, accompanied by top government officials, visited the hospital on Tuesday and promised to foot the bill for the treatment of all the kerosene explosion victims.

In demonstration of his seriousness, N50,000 promised the victims for their upkeep was released barely 24 hours later.

Oyo st

IN deference to the Olubadan-designate, High Chief Samuel Odulana, the striking Oyo State workers have agreed to resume today

The workers had been at loggerheads with the chieftains of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) whom they accused of selling out for calling off the strike on Wednesday.

The workers refused to heed the union leaders' directive