

## Pension scam suspect dies in police custody



SUSPECT in the N1 billion pension scam uncovered at the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC), Mrs. Ifeoma Onyeabo, has died in detention.

Mrs. Onyeabo, a former secretary to the corporation, died in the custody of the Federal Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), barely five days after being transferred to Abuja.

The late Mrs. Onyeabo was among five other suspects transferred to the FCID from the Railway Police Command at Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

Her Murano Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), which was seized from her when the police began investigation into the scam, was seen parked at the Railway Police premises last week.

Her death was being openly discussed at the NRC Headquarters last weekend amid fears that it may affect the investigation.

Other suspects transferred to Abuja were said to have been returned to the Railway Police Command in Lagos for further investigation.

A worker, who pleaded for anonymity, said the “unending investigation,” may have worsened the suspects’ health.

He said: “How many weeks would it take the police to conclude their investigation, since there are no fresh leads. The police should begin the prosecution of the suspects. These suspects have been detained for more than four weeks and during this period, they have been denied access to their lawyers and doctors. Their long incarceration may trigger other complications.”

A top management official, who asked not to be named, said the management was not culpable in the “unfortunate” turn of events.

The official said the management was proactive, setting up a panel to investigate the scam immediately it blew open.

He said: “We immediately submitted the panel’s report to the Board and the police were invited to begin investigation and what happened thereafter is outside the control of the NRC management.”