



Ripples over death of guard at UniUyo

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The death of a security guard attached to the home of the Chief Medical Director (CMD), University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH), Prof. Etete Peters, is causing ripples.

The security guard, simply identified as Mr. Isong, was said to have been attacked by a dog when he reported for duty last week.

A security guard, who did not want his name in print, said Isong was still coping with the dog bite until last Sunday morning when he was found struggling on the ground, with saliva rushing from his mouth.

His words: "We reported the dog bite to the CMD but he did nothing about it. Mr. Isong was quite helpless because we have not been paid for five months. On Sunday morning, he reported for duty, but when we turned behind the building, we saw him struggling on the ground with saliva gushing from his mouth, we rushed him to the hospital, but unfortunately he died.

"Life has been generally very hard with some of us who are working with the CMD. They keep giving very delicious meals to these wild dogs, but we humans are denied the opportunity of a comfortable life. How do you survive when you are being owed by a man who is not poor?"

But the CMD denied the allegation.

He said the news that one of his employees died as a result of dog bite is not true.

He explained that there was an incident of one of his security guards bitten by a dog three months ago, adding that the guard was well-treated and taken care of.

He said: "The story is false. We do not owe our staff. The security man in question is not our employee; he was a contract staff from a security firm.

"We have actually received report that a guard slumped and died. Any dog bite related issue does not last more than 10 days. The incident occurred three months ago, and the victim was well treated and taken care of by the hospital."

It was gathered that Isong's clansmen and family, who were not happy about the death of their son, blocked all entrances leading in and out of the UUTH, alleging that the CMD denied them the opportunity to see their son in the mortuary.

One of the relations, Mr. Ime Ekong, who spoke with *The Nation*, said: "We wouldn't expect him to personally treat our son, why did he not at least pay his salaries? Then the young man would have been able to take care of himself. He killed him out of wickedness."

Ekong said that the CMD invited men of the Quick Response Squad to the hospital, who shot sporadically into the air to disperse the protesting Isong's relations.