

## Death of woman in church during childbirth sparks row

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The death of a 23-year-old expectant woman, Deborah Kolawole, during childbirth in a church has sparked row in the Oke Oyinbo area of Ado Odo/Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Sources said the pastor in charge of a pentecostal church in the area identified as Samuel had asked Deborah to observe spiritual protection in his church, in order to avert death during childbirth.

Deborah, a beautician, was said to have heeded the warning and moved to the church six months ago, for the spiritual protection. But what she wanted to avert eventually happened penultimate Wednesday after she went into labour.

According to sources, there was no nurse or birth attendant around when Deborah went into labour, at about 4 am. She was said to have lost a lot of blood until a nurse invited by the pastor came around 6 am.

Although, sources said the nurse assisted Deborah to deliver the child, she died later in the evening.

The baby also did not survive.

The woman's death angered her husband, who accused the Pastor of fradulent practices and complicity in the death of his wife.

A source said: "Deborah's husband, Kolawole said the pastor collected a lot of money from him after he asked his wife to start spiritual protection in his church, following a revelation the pastor claimed he had.

"He said that an elderly woman in the church asked his wife to walk up and down, she experienced signs of labour and there was no nurse in sight. But she had lost a lot of

blood before the arrival of a nurse and she was placed on drip. She however died a few hours later when the pastor asked her to start denouncing her spiritual tormentors.

"Kolawole was also angry that the pastor warned him not to tell anyone that his wife died in the church during childbirth."

When our reporter visited the church during the week, a woman who claimed to be a member of the congregation said the embattled cleric was not available.

An insider however told our reporter that the pastor had no hand in Deborah's death.

"The cleric has no hand in the woman's death at all and he never asked the woman to come to the church for spiritual protection. The pastor only admonished the late woman not to be too far from the church in order to observe prayers. The woman died in a vehicle while being taken to a hospital."













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