

Calabar inmate dies after delivering twins

THE Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS) in Cross River State has said the Awaiting Trial Female (ATF) inmate of the Afokang Prison in Calabar, who was delivered of a set of twins on April 17, has died.

A statement yesterday by NPS's spokesman, Effanga Etim, said the deceased was delivered of her babies, a boy and girl, through Caesarean section, but died on April 19 due to complications.

The command debunked reports that she gave birth inside the prison, saying she was delivered at the General Hospital in Calabar where she had been receiving ante-natal care.

The statement reads: "The

From Nicholas Kalu, Calabar

Nigeria Prisons Service, Cross River State Command, has received with dismay reports insinuating that an Awaiting Trial Female (ATF) inmate of Calabar Prison was delivered of twins inside the prison facility.

"The report is not true as the said inmate was remanded by a High Court on November 5, 2018 with six-month-old pregnancy for child theft.

"While in prison, she had been on regular ante-natal care at the General Hospital, Calabar. On the April 17, at 1:30pm, when her labour started, she was admitted in the same hospital and a cae-

sarean section was carried out on her.

"With the intervention of the Commissioner for Health, and efforts of the prison authority to provide the funds needed for the caesarean section, the inmate was delivered of twins - a boy and a girl. However, due to complications, she was referred to the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) for further management, where she died on April 19.

"The command states emphatically that in the last four years, there has not been any delivery in the Calabar prison infirmary. Albeit, the infirmary is well equipped to handle health emergencies

that may arise with nine medical experts, comprising a doctor, registered nurses/midwives and community health workers, as well as back-up medical personnel stationed there. Any emergency beyond the infirmary is referred to government hospitals outside the prison.

"The prison command is pained over the loss of the inmate after a combined effort by the prison authority, the state government and medical personnel in the General Hospital. I assure the public that the health and welfare of prisoners remain top priority."

Etim said the babies are in the care of the state government at the moment.