

# Doctor bags six-month suspension as patient dies from 'gross negligence'

Moses EMORINKEN, Abuja

THE Medical and Dental Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal at the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) has suspended one Dr. Roberts Osas Ikhu-Omoregbe for six months for gross negligence, which led to the death of his patient.

The doctor, who was slammed with a five count charge, was found guilty of four count charge bordering on professional misconduct, malpractice, negligence and gross negligence. The Tribunal, however, noted that on count 3 charge, the doctor was not manifestly incompetent in the assessment of the deceased.

The tribunal explained that the doctor was grossly negligent in the management of one Mrs. Elizabeth Peter Ndueso (now deceased) when he undertook the procedure of Total Abdominal Hysterectomy on her under suboptimal conditions until she died on the operation table.

Furthermore, Ikhu-Omoregbe, while under the full-time employment in the public service at Wuse District Hospital, Abuja, offered to treat the late Ndueso at his private hospital - Lucia-Wells Hospital Bwari, Abuja.

He was also accused of failing to refer the patient to a practitioner who is better skilled and equipped for the treatment of her condition (symptomatic fibroid). The deceased was an elderly post-menopausal woman.

During the sitting of the MDCN Disciplinary Tribunal in Abuja, the Chairman, Prof. Abba Waziri, said: "The respondent, Dr. Roberts Osas Ikhu-Omoregbe, is hereby convicted on counts 1, 2, 4, and 5. Having been convicted, he is hereby sentenced to three months suspension on counts 1, 2, and 4, and six months suspension on count 5, to run concurrently with immediate effect."

Another medical practitioner, Dr. Abdul-Baki Abdulganiyu Ishola, who worked at the Al-Baki Muslim Hospital Oloje, Ilorin, Kwara State, was slammed a four-count charge.

While the tribunal found the doctor not guilty of count 3 charge bothering on malpractice in the management of one Alhaja Salimat Jawondo (now deceased), between March 29, 2022 and April 12, 2020, he was found guilty of counts 1, 2, and 4, bothering on manifest incompetence in the assessment of the patient and gross negligence in her management.

The tribunal noted that the doctor was grossly negligent in the management of his patient who was diabetic, particularly when he conducted a laparotomy on her even when it was clear to him that her appendix had ruptured, leading to complications which she never recovered from until she died.

Dr. Ishola was however admonished to be of good behaviour in his professional practice.

Lastly, Dr. Gerald Onwuegbuzie, a registered medical practitioner practising as a Consultant Neurologist at Harmony Specialist Hospital, Narayi Road, Barnawa, Kaduna State, was found not guilty of five count charges, and was discharged and acquitted of the charges.