

# Hospital's elevator first killed bread seller, says sources



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- *Faulty since 2018*
- *Governor's wife calms protesters*

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A bread seller was the first person to have been trapped and killed by the faulty elevator at

the [General Hospital Odan](#), Lagos Island, The Nation has learnt.

The unnamed bread seller, it was gathered, was on her way to the 10th floor of the building to supply a customer when she got trapped in the lift and died, hospital sources said yesterday.

Although the trader's name and when the incident occurred were not given, it was alleged that the hospital's management swept the issue under the carpet.

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The Nation gathered that emotions were high in the case of the doctor-in-training, Dr. Vwaere Diaso because workers had complained several times about the elevator since it became faulty in 2018.

The doctor, who had barely two weeks to complete her housemanship, got trapped in the elevator for over 40 minutes while descending from the 10th floor to fetch her food from a dispatch rider.

It was alleged that the hospital did not attend to her in good time.

A source at a public hospital, who spoke in confidence, alleged that money had been released for the repair of the elevator but nothing was done.

The source wondered why the hospital didn't cordon off the elevator so that people would stop using it since its bad condition was already known to staffers.

“We are particularly angry over this incident because it is not the first time it is happening. A bread seller was the first person to be killed in that same elevator. The elevator has been faulty since 2018 and nothing was done to fix it. The bread seller was going up to sell to a customer when she met her untimely death.

“This time round, the young doctor was going down to collect the food she ordered from an outlet and that's how she met her end. It is a horrible way to die and very painful to anyone who hears it.

“Why didn't the hospital seal that elevator since 2018? Why did they allow people to be using it knowing the danger it portends? Why is the government yet to even seal up that place? If it was private property, it won't be treated this lightly,” he lamented.

Another source, a doctor, claimed that Diaso's father slumped after he heard of the incident, adding that he had been unconscious at an undisclosed hospital.

The Nation observed that doctors rendered skeletal services across public hospitals in the state in compliance with the directive of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).

Few doctors, who were available to attend to patients not in an emergency, said they were only following their consciences to render selfless service to humanity.

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Meanwhile, Lagos State Governor's wife, Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, appealed for calm as Diaso's protesting colleagues besieged the hospital's premises on Wednesday.

Addressing protesters in a viral video, Mrs. Sanwo-Olu implied it was a spiritual attack against the health sector.

She linked the incident to the helicopter accident that occurred in the state earlier on Tuesday.

She said: “An arrow has been fired into the health family. First of August is a day I will never forget. The same day a helicopter crashed, the same day a lift dropped down. How? How? How?”

But Netizens condemned the First Lady for insinuating it was a spiritual attack, insisting it was the consequence of poor maintenance of the elevator by the management of the hospital.

A tweep, @ceemancy declared, “Anything that can go wrong will go wrong and at the worst possible time....Murphy’s law. That’s why maintenance is very important.”

In the same vein, @DieuEmeka blamed the death of Dr. Diaso on the failure of government.

He wrote: “The how is simple nah. The government which her husband heads failed to maintain the lift. There was no arrow. It was simply a result of corruption and irresponsibility on the part of the government. That is what, why, and how.”

However, the Lagos State Government has condoled the family of Dr. Diaso, just as it announced that a panel had been set up to probe the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The government also promised to sanction anyone found culpable.