

Family members storm Abuja hospital to protest patient's death

•Call for shutdown of hospital

THE family of an asthmatic patient, Chiagoziem Dike, who was rejected by the Federal Staff Hospital Gwarimpa, Abuja yesterday called for the shutdown of the hospital.

The 37-year-old was said to have experienced asthmatic attack and was rushed to the hospital only to be rejected without any attention.

Dike, however, died while he was being rushed to another hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Jabi where he was pronounced dead.

The family blamed his death on the failure of FSH staff on duty to attend to him when he was rushed to the hospital for medical attention.

Vincent Ikuomola, Abuja

According to the family members who staged a protest to the Federal Staff Hospital, Dike would have still been alive if the hospital had attended to him.

The family members wondered how the hospital's medical staff, who were on duty at the time, could not at least check him before sending him away.

According to the protesting family members, the hospital was alleged to be notorious for rejecting emergency cases and thereby causing untimely death of innocent patients.

Narrating the incident, a lady who identified

herself as late Dike's friend, said he was rushed to the hospital when he had an asthma attack in the early hours of April 25, 2024 only for the medical staff on duty to refuse to open the gate. She said they also stopped the gatemen, who had shown concern, from opening gate.

She said after staying for about two hours and there was no sign of attention, they decided to go to another hospital. Unfortunately, Dike could not make it there.

"I am his friend. I was with him when he had the attack. He is asthmatic. He had this attack last week. On the 25 of April, at about 4:30 am, we drove down to this hospital. Two doctors came and refused to open the gate for us.

"The security guard wanted to help us but the doctors shouted and refused to open the gate for us. We were there till 6am.

The late Dike's sister, Onyiyechi, urged the Medical Director to get to the root of the matter, saying, "It is your responsibility to know what happened in your hospital.

Continued on Page 28