

NAFDAC explains circumstances behind death of pupil in Ebonyi

Soji Eze-Fagbemi | Abuja

The Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has dispelled claims that Jerome Nwome, a Nursery 2 pupil in Ebonyi State, died after allegedly ingesting a worming drug known as Albendazole.

The *Ohanaeze Ndigbo* Youth Council Worldwide, on Friday, January 3, had petitioned the Federal Ministry of Health, Ebonyi State

governor, Dave Umahi, and the National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) over the death of the five-year-old pupil.

In a statement issued on Tuesday in Abuja, the agency's director-general, Professor Christianah Mojisola Adeyeye, explained that investigations conducted by the agency revealed that the Albendazole tablets used in Ebonyi State were officially donated to

the Nigerian government through the Federal Ministry of Health.

The medicine is donated for use on Federal Ministry of Health ongoing programme on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and the medicine is administered within a community by trained community drug distributors.

She explained: "The Albendazole tablets were administered to several children in Ndiegu Okpuitumo

Community, including two children in the same household as Jerome Nwome.

"Jerome Nwome, the deceased, collected Albendazole tablets but refused to take the medicine in the presence of the trained community drug distributors.

"In the absence of the community drug distributors, the two children in the same household as Jerome held him by the throat and forced the medicine to

his mouth without water. After taking the medicine without water, he coughed.

"They later gave him water to swallow the medicine and after swallowing the medicine, he staggered. In the process of staggering, he fell down and became unconscious. He was rushed to a health centre where he was confirmed dead."

However, she said a sample of the batch of Albendazole tablets admin-

istered to the children in Ndiegu Okpuitumo community was subjected to laboratory analysis, stressing that the report of analysis established that the product complied with required specifications.

The management of NAFDAC expressed sincere condolences to the family of Jerome and prayed to the Almighty God to grant the members of his family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Court of Appeal complex for inauguration February 3

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He told newsmen that

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