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Police arraign woman for administering killer drugs

MAY 13, 2014 BY SAMSON FOLARIN 1 COMMENT

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Ebute Meta Magistrate Court

| credits: Samson Folarin

A 44-year-old woman, Caroline Okoye, has been arraigned before an Ebute Meta Magistrate's court for allegedly giving medical treatment to one Ephraim Omeugo without due qualification.

Okoye, who claimed to be a certified auxiliary nurse, was said to have given Omeugo some pills at her residence at the Ijaiye area of Lagos State.

Things, however, went awry when the victim died shortly afterwards.

Our correspondent gathered that on the fateful day, the deceased, who had fallen ill,

had spoken with a relative who advised he should visit a private medical centre owned by him.

It was learnt that he was originally supposed to go to the state's General Hospital due to the severity of the sickness, but decided to go to the medical centre after the advice.

The late Omeugo was said to have called Okoye, who worked at the medical centre as a nurse.

She reportedly asked the 42-year-old to meet her at her home, where she treated him and gave him the drugs.

It was learnt that Omeugo asked for a bottle of soft drink, after which he collapsed.

He was said to have been rushed to the medical centre, where he died.

The police thereafter arrested Okoye and arraigned her on Monday on one count of reckless and negligent acts.

The charge reads, "That you, Caroline Okoye, on April 16, 2014 at about 8am at 144, Powerline Road, Ijaiye Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, without being a qualified medical doctor or nurse, did recklessly and negligently give medical treatment to one Ephraim Omeugo, aged 42 years."

The police prosecutor, Richard Odige, said the offence was punishable under section 249 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, Nigeria, 2011.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge and elected summary trial.

The defence counsel, E.O. Udoagwa, applied for Okoye's bail in liberal terms.

The Chief Magistrate, Mrs. E.B. Daodu, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N100,000 with one surety in like sum.

"The surety must be gainfully employed in a reputable organisation, with evidence of tax payment to Lagos

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State for three years. The address of the surety must be verified. The defendant is hereby ordered to be remanded pending the time the bail conditions will be met," she added.

The matter was adjourned till June 30, 2014.

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