

# Family, hospital clash over patient's death in Edo specialist hospital

Adeyinka Adedipe, Benin

**T**HE death of a 60-year-old patient, Joy Milton, at the Edo Specialist Hospital in Benin has caused a clash between the family of the deceased and the hospital management.

Speaking for the family on Sunday, a Benin-based legal practitioner, Anderson Asemota, accused the doctors on duty of taking the oxygen of her mother, Milton, on Saturday after an unsuccessful operation.

He said, "I lost my mother yesterday (Saturday) to the negligence and outright wickedness of doctors, nurses and admin staff of the Edo Specialist Hospital. A doctor removed the oxygen from my dying mother over an argument on payment. I paid for two dialysis procedures which were not carried out.

"The doctors resorted to extortion, giving different prescriptions, which were not given to my mother. I had paid all my mother's bills but the hospital officials came up with a bill of N82,000 despite the fact that I had paid N90,000.

"When I was to take my mother to another hospital, they shut the gate, rolled my mother outside the hospital and removed the oxygen

with the same doctor saying, "If she wan die, make she die, na our money dey important."

"When I reminded the doctor that it would be a clear case of murder, if my mother died, he answered, 'Forget that thing; in Nigeria, everybody is a fool.'

"My mother later died at Celltec Hospital, Oluku, on Saturday. She had incision from where she bled and died despite the effort of the doctors at Celltec. I have briefed my lawyers and Edo Specialist Hospital will hear from my family," he said.

Reacting, on behalf of the hospital, one Dr Peter Evbuomwan said he was informed around 8.50pm on Saturday by the nurse that a patient was supposed to be referred to another hospital, but the doctors left because the said patient's relatives physically assaulted one of the doctors on duty.

He said on getting to the Accident and Emergency ward, he overheard a relative of the deceased talking on the telephone phone, saying the machine didn't work because of the negligence of the medical staff and he corrected the statement that such was not

the case.

"The said relative then rained curses on me after which an exchange of words ensued. He attempted to physically assault me, but was held back by his brothers and some of the security staff on duty.

## 17 fresh deaths move Bauchi cholera victims to 37

Armstrong Bakam, Bauchi

**S**EVENTEEN more deaths have been recorded in Bauchi State since the first outbreak was announced by the Ministry of Health.

Recall that a former Commissioner of Health in the state, Dr Aliyu Maigoro, on May 25 said 20 people had died from the disease, while 322 people were being managed.

However, the Executive Chairman, Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr Rilwan Mohammed, in a cholera data sent to our correspondent, said that the disease had spread to 15 local government areas of the state from the initial nine.

Mohammed said that 1,799 cases were recorded from May

"At this point, one of the doctors attending to the deceased stepped in and started writing the referral note while letting me know what had happened previously.

"The relative said I don't know who he was and threatened that he would call many people to deal with me."

25 to the time of compiling the report.

He listed that the affected LGAs as Ganjuwa, Dass, Bauchi, Giade, Jama'are, Darazo, Misau, Ningi and Shira, Warji, Zaki, Alkalari, Tafawa Balewa, Shira and Kirfi.

Mohammed said Bauchi LGA was worst hit with 1,334 cases and 18 deaths while Toro had 165 cases, Ningi 91 cases and Dass 60 cases with four, three and two deaths respectively.

He added that Misau LGA recorded 44 cases with four deaths, while Tafawa Balewa LGA recorded 41 cases also with four deaths.

Mohammed said, "The agency has begun the chlorination of wells and the decontamination of affected households and referral of detected cases to the Cholera Treatment Centre."