

## Breaking News

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## Parents lament poor facilities as 10-year-old Akwa Ibom school pupil dies

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Map of Akwa Ibom

Some parents of pupils at the Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, have lamented the poor medical facility at the school.

The reaction followed the death of a Junior Secondary School One student, Rita Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, a 10-year-old pupil, was admitted to the school's sickbay, which allegedly lacked facilities.

She was later released to her parents, who took her to a hospital, where she died.

A parent, Mayen Ekanem, blamed her death on negligence by the school management, saying the school's medical facility was dysfunctional.

She said, "The children are going through a lot of pain from poor medication because of low-quality drugs with only two nurses, poor feeding, with cooks and teachers always in the habit of taking food away, leaving the children malnourished and water crises all the time in the school."

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Another parent, Enobong Bassey, said the death was avoidable.

She said, "The school is lacking in everything, including discipline and security because young children have traumatic experiences almost every day with the seniors brutalising them."

However, the Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association of the school, Dr Itoro Ikoh, called for calm.

She said, "Miss Rita was a JSS1 pupil. I was told that she felt pains in her stomach at night. The following morning, while her house mistress was on a routine check, she ordered that Rita be taken to the sickbay. She was attended to, but on close examination, it was observed to be a complicated one which required referral.

"Umbilical hernia was diagnosed and the attention of Rita's parents was required. When we spoke to the mother, she told us that she usually gave her vinegar to calm down. She was later taken to a hospital, where she died."

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Akwa Ibom school      poor facilities

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