

Victim brought in seven hours after accident – Abuja hospital

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The management of the National Hospital, Abuja, has denied allegations that the negligence and incompetence of its employees caused the death of 27-year old Obinna Emeka, the son of Eze Emeka Ogbonna, a traditional ruler from the Ama-Inyi community in the Ihitte/Uboma Local Government Area of Imo State.

The monarch had in a statement had called on the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), to close down the hospital over the negligence and incompetence of the staff members, which allegedly caused the death of his son.

He alleged that the hospital lacked a functional scanning machine to carry out a full body scan on his son, and that it took it another three hours to attend to Obinna after a scan had been conducted at a private hospital, and that his son died within that time.

However, in a counter statement, the spokesperson of the Hospital, Dr Tayo Haastrup, faulted the claims and stated that Obinna was brought to the hospital seven hours after his accident, adding that the NHA had functional equipment and that it was the hospital's policy to treat patients for 48 hours before demanding any sort of payment.

The statement read in part, "The attention of the management of the National Hospital Abuja has been drawn to an online publication...with the caption: 'FG urged to close National Hospital Abuja after death of young pharmacist'.

"The statements in the publication were attributed to HRH Eze Pharm. Emeka Ogbonna, who alleged that his son,

Charles Emeka, died in the National Hospital Abuja due to incompetence and negligence.

"To put the record straight, the patient was said to have been knocked down by a vehicle along Kubwa Expressway and was taken to the Kubwa General Hospital after which he was referred to the National Hospital Abuja. He was presented to the National Hospital Abuja Trauma Centre on 2/4/2023, seven hours following the accident. Necessary investigations and procedures were carried out but unfortunately, we lost the patient.

"As a matter of fact, there was no incompetence or negligence in the treatment of the said patient. The National Hospital Abuja ensures that medical services are rendered promptly. Emergencies/trauma cases are given priorities. Our CT scan, MRI and Ultrasound machines are always available for in-patients and emergencies. Furthermore, it is a policy in the National Hospital Abuja to attend to emergencies for 48 hours without emphasizing on the monetary aspect.

"While sympathizing with the family of HRH Eze Pharm. Emeka Ogbonna over the demise of their son, we wish to categorically state that the National Hospital Abuja has competent medical personnel fully certified by professional bodies. Also, standard procedures are followed strictly."

Haastrup also called on members of the public to ensure that patients were taken to hospital in time, and advised media organisations to verify information to ensure balanced reports and to avoid sensationalism.