

A husband's agony

By Job Osazuwa

It is three months since the death of Mrs. Kemi Fadehan. But the pain inflicted on her husband seems to be increasing by the day.

"My world has crumbled before me and my life is finished. She was a pillar of support to us. In fact, she was my everything." Those were Fadehan's words when the reporter visited him recently at his office in Yaba, Lagos. He stared at a computer on his desk, and sobbed intermittently. His colleagues admitted that his productivity at the office had been drastically reduced.

Mrs. Fadehan Kemi died on August 31, 2016, at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja, Lagos, two weeks after she was delivered of a baby boy through a caesarean section (CS) at Ifako-Ijaiye General Hospital in Lagos. Kemi's fatal delivery, according to her husband, was her third CS.

Accusations and denials

Fadehan is still bitter about the quality of health care given to his wife. He believes that his wife died due to negligence on the part of the medical personnel that took the delivery at Ifako-Ijaiye General Hospital. He also claimed that a senior consultant slated to perform his wife's operation failed to show up that day.

"It is instructive to note that my wife had the last CS over four and a half years ago at Oke-Odo General Hospital, Lagos State, without any problem then and after.

"I, therefore, put it to you that it was your rupture of my wife's intestine as deduced prior to and during the second corrective surgery that caused the much bleeding you called me to experience in the theatre, which in turn led to the infection of my wife's organs and led to her death," he wrote the gynaecologist that performed his wife's last operation.

Fadehan told *Daily Sun* that he was shocked when he was told by the female doctor that handled his wife case that it was her past two caesarean sections that led to her death.

He has forwarded a petition, dated September 20, 2016, to the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN). He also copied the Minister of Health, Commissioner of Health, Lagos State, the management of Ifako-Ijaiye General Hospital and others. In the petition, Fadehan demanded justice over his wife's "avoidable death due to negligence."

The petitioner said he needed to raise the alarm, even though it wouldn't bring back his wife, to forestall recurrence and loss of lives in the hands of professionals who should save life.

"My loving wife, Kemi, died in a hospital that many would have blamed us for not using," he noted.

In reaction, the spokesperson for LASUTH, Mr. Idowu Olasukanmi, denied Fadehan's allegations.

He told *Daily Sun* that the hospital did all it could to save the woman, regretting that she died due to further complications that defied treatment.

Olasukanmi said the issue of negligence of duty, as raised by Mr. Fadehan, was totally unfounded, because the hospital "dutifully monitored every minute the woman spent at the hospital."

At Ifako-Ijaiye General Hospital

'How LASUTH, Ifako-Ijaiye hospital killed my wife'

• Allegations not true; we did our best – LASUTH

Fadehan told *Daily Sun* that his wife attended a proper antenatal programme spanning over five months at the hospital.

He said: "Worthy of note is that her last child was close to five years, a period medically ample enough to have another baby.

"On August 17, 2016, two weeks before my wife's estimated due date (EDD), the doctors admitted my wife for the operation billed for the next day. All payments were made and surgery materials were provided. The surgery started about 4:45pm and was not concluded until about 8:30pm. At about 6:30pm on that fateful day, the head of the team (name withheld by us), asked that I be brought into the theatre. I was shocked when I saw my wife in a pool of her blood and saw that her uterus and virtually all her intestines were out.

"The doctor, visibly nervous, was blaming me for allowing the lady to go through a third surgery and explained that her uterus was weak and that this explained the much blood loss. At this point, she told me the reason for calling me in was to quickly get the extra dose of oxytocin she had earlier demanded and to let me know that she would still require more of it and a second pint of blood. Immediately, I got the oxytocin and the O-negative blood, which was not in the hospital's blood bank.

"On August 22, we noticed that her stomach had started swelling back even to



Fadehan

the level at pregnancy. The next day, she was asked to stop taking food and she was placed on drips. By Wednesday, she was complaining of weakness due to hunger, a scan was ordered and a special catheter was placed in her nostril to drain her stomach content.

"She was getting more emaciated due to hunger. She was placed on antibiotics and it was at this point that a second surgery was first suggested. I quickly sent a distress call to my office for financial help on August 24, when I already had spent extra N220,000. My office helped me to quickly raise another N230,000 for the expected surgery. This was

eight days after the complication was already pronounced.

"My wife was not at ease all the while but was just able to manage to defecate a little in the morning, which the doctors felt was a sign of improvement. Later in the evening, I was called to pay for an ambulance as a referral had been made to LASUTH, being the base of most of the consultants who would attend to her subsequently and for closer monitoring."

The battle at LASUTH

The struggle to keep the woman alive continued at LASUTH. Kemi, it was learnt, was admitted into the Gynaecology Ward A, at about 10:45pm on August 25.

The bereaved husband further: "Several teams of doctors from the surgery unit came to observe her for the next two days. Each came with a different postulation. All this while, my wife's health was deteriorating and she started generating spasms and hallucinating. She had high temperature and had difficulty in breathing.

"Meanwhile, the only explanation the doctors gave was that it might not be advisable for her to go through a second surgery, which they knew was inevitable.

"On August 27, she defecated and the same faecal liquid started coming out of the sutured portion of the abdomen where the CS was done. All the positive signs changed to more weakness, paleness, over-the-roof

Lawmaker fetes Lagos prisoners

By Tony Udemba

INMATES of Kirikiri Medium Security Prisons, Lagos, were in a boisterous mood recently, as a member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh, brought succour to the prisoners in commemoration of his birthday.

To boost the morale of the inmates, the lawmaker, who represents Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State at the House of Representatives, on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), donated sundry food items to the inmates, even as he brought along with him a colourful cake, which was a gift from the Lagos State governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode.

Egoh also facilitated the release of 10 inmates at the Kirikiri Medium Security Prisons by paying their respective fines. The celebration, which took place inside the prison's church, started on a high note, as

the inmates, led by the church band, danced and sang melodious songs to worship God and beseech Him to intervene in their situations.

Addressing the inmates, Egoh praised God for adding another year to his sojourn on earth, just as he commended Governor Ambode for his good work in the state and for presenting him with a birthday cake.

He lauded the Nigerian Prisons Service for managing the inmates, even as he praised the orderly conduct of the prisoners. The Representative said, since the facility was situated within Amuwo Odofin constituency, he should be concerned about whatever challenges the inmates were facing. The lawmaker charged the inmates to be of good behaviour, noting that God would soon intervene in their matter.

He further charged them to take good advantage of whatever reformation programmes were offered to them by government so that they would leave prison

as better individuals. He later announced that 10 inmates were to be released, as he had helped to pay their fines. He promised to facilitate the release of more prisoners in the future.

Also speaking on the occasion, Pastor Shedrack of Church of God Mission, Mazamaza, Lagos, commended Egoh for making the prisoners smile and for the release of some of the inmates. He called on other prominent Nigerians to remember the plight of prisoners and the needy in society.

The pastor praised the prison officials for their diligence and good work, and enjoined the inmates to show remorse for the offences that brought them into prison custody. He also counselled them to be prayerful to God always and look up to Him for their freedom, sustenance and transformation, as many great personalities, including Nelson Mandela and Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, had passed through the walls of the prisons and later became