

# AGONY, PAINS OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN KADUNA

## One dies after giving birth to triplets

By SOLA OJO, KADUNA

**PREGNANCY** is a time of excitement but sometimes it is also a time of worry, anxiety and sorrow. Under normal circumstance, the news of the arrival of a new baby brings joy and happiness into every heart that witnessed or learnt about it. But when it leads to the tale of the unexpected, of the death of the baby's mother, then joy suddenly turns to sorrow.

### Complications leading to the shocking death of Janet

This is the case with the death of 33-year-old Janet P. George from Kurmi Masara, Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, shortly after being delivered of triplets (all girls) through caesarian section at General Hospital, Sabon Tasha, in Chikun Local Government Area of the state.

A relative, Asha'a Priscilla Daniel, lamented that Janet lost her life in inexplicable circumstances, after being delivered of the babies on December 19, 2017. "Nobody knows what happened in the theatre," she said. "We were told it was due to complications that arose during the doctors' attempts to remove fibroids they found in her womb. She was diagnosed of fibroids but can't they remove the fibroids alongside the babies"? she asked.

Fibroids are non-cancerous mass of compacted muscles and fibrous tissue, found inside or outside the uterine wall. Seventy to eighty percent of women have fibroids that can be removed be-

fore or after pregnancy in order to reduce miscarriage, reproductive and women's health specialist, Dr. Andrew Orr, said. Generally, fibroids are not that dangerous. However, the size and location are the issue, he informed.

"If there is anything I wish for the year, it is for Janet to come back to life and take care of the three beautiful girls she gave birth to," Asha'a said with tears welling up her eyes. "The children are with one of our aunts in Kaduna. It was a very sad experience that a woman who underwent antenatal care in the same hospital could pass on just like that. Her husband, her three-year-old girl, other immediate family members and friends are still in shock as we speak.

"But we really don't know what happened to her like I said and that is our concern. At least, it is important to know that so others can learn from it. I mean, if it is not from the hospital itself because we've heard about several cases of negligence and poor attitude of health workers to their patients."

Investigation by *Saturday Sun* revealed that late Janet's case was quite a pathetic and unfortunate one. A top management staff of the hospital who does not want to be mentioned in print because he is not authorized to make a public statement on the matter, reported that, "the operation was successful and she had already left the theatre before the unfortunate incident happened and we are sad about it.

"There is need also for religious leaders to talk to their followers. When some of them come around to give birth and there is need for them to go under the knife, many

of them would tell you no because their pastor had told them that they would not be delivered of their baby through caesarian section even when their faith is not as strong as that of their pastors.

"So, in such a situation what can a doctor do? But when the situation gets worse they would come back and be pleading. But because doctors are trained to save lives, they would still want to go ahead and on some occasions, this may lead to the death of either the mother or the baby. I never said this is what happened in her own case but I'm only sharing our experience with you to help the public, in your report".

### Death due to absence of good facilities and well-trained staff

Thirty-five-year old Jummai Joseph, an indigene of Kaffin Gwari, Kaduna gave birth to a stillborn through caesarian section at another general hospital in Kawo, Kaduna North Local Government Area of the state, but she later developed what is known in medical circles as Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF).

Immediate causes of her own medical problem were blamed on non-availability of healthcare facilities and well-trained birth attendant in this area. Owing to the delay in accessing necessary healthcare service, she not only lost her baby, but also developed complications thereof.

"In the course of labour, I was rushed to a public hospital, Kawo, in Kaduna North Local Government Area for medical attention," she informed. "But in the course of movements and surgery, I had a stillbirth. I'm not blaming the surgeon, but at the hospital, there was some delay in getting a doctor to attend to me. I want to believe that this is what contributed to the loss and pains.

"Thereafter, I came back home. But it never occurred to me that the prolonged labour had led to VVF until some days after when urine started coming out of my body on its own. I was taken back to the hospital where it was confirmed that I had developed VVF. But when they couldn't solve the

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