

THE MEGA CITY / LIFE

'Killer Doctors' on the prowl



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With one Teaching Hospital, four Specialist Hospitals, 16 General Hospitals and government-owned hospitals with qualified personnel, the arrest of fake medical doctors in Ondo State seems to be on the rise. It is thereby giving cause for concern. BABATOPE OKEOWO reports that the conviction of a fake doctor and arrest of



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The conviction of 'Dr' Wembe Duclarie and the arrest of two other fake 'medical doctors' in recent times showed the upsurge in the activities of unqualified personnel engaged in medical practice in different parts of Ondo State. That is despite the existence of qualified doctors in government and privately owned hospitals in the state.

The Sunshine State boasts of one Teaching Hospital, one University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), four Specialist Hospitals, two Mother and Child Hospitals, General Hospitals, Comprehensive Health Centres and Maternity Centres in virtually all the Local Government areas of the state.

Many private hospitals either owned by churches or individuals also litter the state. In these health facilities, the Task Force on Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and the Monitoring Unit of the Ondo State Ministry of Health had arrested 'Dr' Olowolayemo Ifetayo Williams Adewale Emmanuel Owolanke for operating 'hospitals' in different parts of the state. He secured the conviction of another fake medical doctor. The 'hospitals' of these medical practitioners were always located in rural areas where the long arm of the law would not catch up with them.

The rural dwellers, who cannot decipher a fake from genuine medical doctors, always become victims to the fake doctors because of cheap services they render to them. These hospitals were responsible for the death of some people seeking medical solutions to their problems. For instance, 'Dr' Adewale Owolanke was arrested in Uso, an agrarian community in Odo/Otin Local Government area of the state. Before his arrest, Owolanke has operated in the community for years and his quackery has led to the death of not less than three persons in recent time. As at the time of his arrest, three persons were on admission in the hospital for various ailments. Owolanke has been parading himself as a doctor and operating an

The hospital popularly called Baba Mama Hospital is situated behind St. Andrews Anglican Church, Uso in the agrarian community. Owolanke was alleged to have operated on his victims who had lost their lives in the process. Officials of the Ministry of Health earlier closed down the Hospital when he operated on a woman with ectopic pregnancy. The first time Owolanke was arrested, it was the Federal Medical Centre, Owo that reported after he allegedly aborted a pregnancy for someone who eventually lost her life. The woman with ectopic pregnancy also lost her life.

But Owolanke later reopened the hospital and continued with his illicit activities after his first arrest. Owolanke was said to have claimed to have graduated from the University of Barbados. But a check on the website of the institution showed he lied.

He also claimed to be an undergraduate of the University of Benin in Edo State. Earlier, a Task Force had secured the conviction of 'Dr' Duclarie, who had been holding himself out as a medical doctor in the state. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment by an Akure Magistrate Court for holding himself out as a medical practitioner and operating illegal hospitals in the state.

Duclarie, a 30-year fake medical doctor, had been operating four hospitals in different parts of the state before the long arm of the law caught up with him. He had branches in Alimosho, Akure, the state capital, Owo and Ogbese settlements of the state. The hospital had a banner "Modern Specialist Green World Doctors now in town" and the banner was hung outside the health facility.

operating an illegal hospital in Akure, the State capital. Williams was arrested during monitoring exercise of the Task Force set up by the state government to check counterfeit drugs, hospitals and drug dispensary

Williams, according to the Press Officer of the Ministry of Health, Mrs. Aboolowa Far was operating an illicit hospital and admitting patients under the guise of a patient rest store. He operated the hospital known as 'Olowolayemo Excel Medicine Store' located in Tipper Garage, Arakale Akure.

Various control and banned drugs, injections such as Enagin were found in his possession in the filthy environment where he was suspected to have been carrying out various nefarious activities.

Some of his activities included administering of drips, transfusing blood with wrong instruments, injecting his victims with banned and dangerous injections and disposing Medical wastes in an unlawful manner. Olowolayemo, who was paraded by the official State Ministry of Health, was handed over to law enforcement for prosecution.

Speaking after the parade of the fake medical practitioners in the state, the state government vowed to deal decisively with quacks, fake and counterfeit drug dealers in the state.

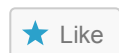
The Commissioner for Health, Dr Wahab Adegbenro, said the government holds dear the lives of residents and would not allow anybody to die with it in the name of making money. Adegbenro said the government would not hesitate to prosecute those operating hospitals

and Fake Drugs in Akure. He advised residents to be careful where they seek Medicar are accredited facilities all around where they can seek Medicare when the need arise Health commissioner also warned quacks and fake drugs dealers that it would not be as usual while appealing to patient medicine dealers to play the game by the rules.

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