## Quintuplets: One child dies as doctor seeks to relocate family

ne of the quintuplets delivered at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Lokoja, Kogi State, on April 17, is dead, the hospital management has said.

This is as the Head of Clinical Services, FMC, Dr Taiwo Jones, seeks to relocate members of the family from their present abode to a more conducive part of the state capital.

Jones told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Lokoja that the baby, who had been in incubator, died in the early hours of Monday.

The baby, a male, was the first to be delivered through Caesarean Section and weighed 1.3 kg at birth, a development which made the hospital to put him in an incubator.

The quintuplets, three boys and two girls, were delivered by Mrs. Uchenna Okeigbo, 42, an indigene of Olokoro Amangbo community in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State.

Okeigbo had waited for 18 years after marriage before giving birth to the quintuplets.

Jones said the hospital did all it could to ensure that the baby stayed alive, but to no avail.

He said: "At delivery, four out of the five babies were found to be fit and okay, but the fifth baby that weighed 1.3kg was unstable and unfit because of infections. As such, he was isolated and kept in an incubator.

"The baby was initially presumed

sepsis based on elevated C-reactive protein.

"Unfortunately the condition of the baby deteriorated and we eventually lost the baby on Monday about 5a.m.

"The other four babies are in stable conditions.

"We will ensure that all the remaining four babies and their mother are fit and stable before they are discharged."

The doctor, however, said that the management of the hospital was considering the possibility of relocating the couple to Lokoja city centre.

He added: "Where the couple are staying at Obajana is full of dust, which may hampered the respiratory system of the babies, which we think may not be too good for them.

"We have suggested it to the wife of the governor, Mrs. Rashidat Bello, who visited them on Monday; if it is possible for the government to assist them.

"Relocating to Lokoja will be safer for them to access the hospital for proper

monitoring, after they had been discharged."

Meanwhile, the governor's wife has donated baby wears and other items worth N300,000 to the babies and their mother.

Bello made the donations when

she led other top government officials on a visit to Okeigbo and her babies at the hospital on Monday.

Also, Okeigbo said yesterday that another wife of the governor, Mrs. Amina Bello, also sent N200,000 to her and the babies.

She added that the state House of Assembly Speaker, Mr. Matthew Kolawole, also visited them on April 20 and gave them N100,000.

She said: "The Kogi State Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Bolanle Amupitan, also gave us N25,000, while the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr. Folashade Ayoade, donated baby items to us."

Okeigbo expressed gratitude to the governor's wives, top government officials and individuals who brought succour to her family.

She added: "We are very glad and grateful to them for their timely interventions."



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