

Row over death of coronavirus suspect in Enugu

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The death of the 70-year-old woman suspected to be infected with coronavirus, which later tested negative has sparked off a row in Enugu State as the deceased's family alleged negligence and poor handling of the suspect's case by the state government.

The deceased who was quarantined at Colliery Hospital, designated as isolation centre for highly infectious diseases, reportedly died on Sunday even before the result of her negative status came out same day.

Following her death, a lady who didn't disclose her name but claimed to be the woman's heartbroken daughter resident in the United Kingdom (UK)

made social media posts alleging poor handling of her mother's illness which had resulted in her death.

But some health workers countered the lady, saying that contrary to her claims, the deceased woman was given the required care and sheltered in a befitting isolation centre with all the required facilities.

The health workers, including Chinwe Udeh, Agatha Nnamani, Nkem Eze, Emeka Anene and Peter Udemezue, said there was no case of stigmatization as the woman's son even refused to donate blood even as blood had to be sourced from outside.

They also added that the doctors and laboratory workers even collected sample from the throat of the woman for the main Coronavirus test, hence there was no stigmatisation as the

writer claimed.

The health workers further said that the NCDC had said the result of the test would be out on Monday but the result came out on Sunday evening, hence there was no delay in laboratory test.

But the lady, who addressed her letter to Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, said "I am writing on behalf of myself and family in regards to the 70 year-old woman suspected of the Covid-19 in Enugu published on Saturday 14th March, 2020.

"The patient, who is my mother unfortunately passed away on Sunday 15th March, 2020 having tested negative to the aforementioned virus.

"She returned to Nigeria on Wednesday 11th March, 2020 after 5 months trip to the UK to visit her children.

"Whilst the health work-

ers/officials at ESUTH Colliery Parklane had to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against this virus, the manner and state at which they treated my mother was inhumane.

"My mother was isolated in a dilapidated environment that seems to have been left uninhabitable over a long period of time. The isolation centre in Enugu is an abandoned old section of the hospital, where the grass and debris were being cleared whilst my mother was there.

"The staff at the hospital were unprofessional in the way they handled my mother. She was stigmatized and this made her feel worthless.

"My mother arrived at the hospital on Friday 13th March, 2020, blood samples were collected on Saturday 14th March, 2020 with results expected on Monday 16th March, 2020."

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