

# Medical Tribunal Suspends Two Doctors over Death of Patients

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Onyebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

Two medical doctors, Dr. Ikeji Charles and Dr. Terhembra Lan, have been suspended for six months for allegedly causing the death of patients in their care.

A tribunal set up by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria in Abuja yesterday suspended Charles of Kefland Family Hospital, Apo Mechanic Extension, Abuja, for causing the death of Fred Akobundu, who was operated for hernia.

Charles, who was arraigned in September 2019, faced a four-count charge bordering on incompetence and negligence. He, however, pleaded not guilty to all the counts.

However, while delivering judgment yesterday, the Chairman of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, Prof Abba Hassan, said the panel considered the plea of defence counsel for both accused doctors before coming to a decision not to strike out their names from medical register.

Hassan said: "In considering the plea in the case of Dr. Charles, who has been practitioner for over 30 years, the defence counsel requested for leniency and to temper justice with mercy. The tribunal considered this and, therefore, we are not giving him the maximum sentence (of striking his name off the register). He is going to be on six month suspension from the day of this judgment."