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Woman, 62, dies in Rivers palliative sharing stampede

ON MAY 19, 2020 7:46 AM / IN [NEWS](#) /

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**By Davies Iheamnachor**

PORT HARCOURT: A woman identified as Mrs. Florence Onuobodo, has lost her life in Elele Kingdom, Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State in a stamped that occurred during the sharing of state government's Covid-19 palliative in the area.

The Rivers State Government had delivered food palliatives to Elele Kingdom in the ongoing distribution of Covid-19 palliatives by the government.

During the sharing process stamped occurred claiming the life of the 62-year-old Florence and living about four other women with various degrees of injuries.

Speaking on the development, Eze Okechukwu Okah, blamed the development on the committee in the community and one Chief Mike Elechi, stating that the stamped would have been avoided if both had managed the process properly.

Okah alleged that the committee had locked out all the beneficiaries of the palliative, adding that the struggle for the residents to gain access into the compound led to the stamped.

He said: "My palliative came before the state government's own many benefitted and nobody died. This stamped happened because one man asked the committee to move the whole item to his compound.

"We know our people are hungry, but the right thing needs to be done. They selected their loyalists to come and get the items, but other people who knew their plans got there as early as 5:00am.

"When they started their selection others started to struggle to enter the compound, their boys started flogging and pushing them backwards, in that process the stamped happened."

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But, the counsellor representing Elele, ward 4, at Ikwerre LGA Legislative Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Amadi, denied the allegation that the process was poorly managed, adding that the stamped happened as a result of quarrel that ensued between women outside the gate.

Amadi, who noted that over four women got trapped in the stamped, including a 91-year-old woman, and were all rushed to the hospital for attention where they were given attention, regretted that Florence lost her life at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital where she was referred to.

He said: “We chose Vintage Farm to share the palliative because of how spacious it is. It is bad when somebody says the stamped happened at the gate while women were dragging to enter the compound.

“The true story is that there was some quarrel among the women outside the gate. I was inside the compound attention to people.

“We were bringing them in in 20s and it was peaceful. I don’t know what transpired there I only got information that there was stamped by the road, not even by the gate.”

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