

LAST WORDS OF LAGOS HIT-AND-RUN VICTIM Take me out of LASUTH before I die

•Died from acute pains after amputation —Family; We spent N600,000 to process medical certificate —Family Head •Hospital probes death

By Bose Adelaja

SHE was energetic, aspiring and promising with determination to live and work abroad, which she diligently pursued, despite all odds, and her prayers were answered when she got a visa to fulfill this long term ambition.

At 31, Omotola Akinsanya was a cynosure to many of her peers, until her hope was dashed on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, when she was reportedly hit by a hit-and-run Lebanese national, John Greg, who was reportedly driving against traffic on top speed.

Greg was said to be driving a Toyota 4Runner when he allegedly hit Omotola, and this resulted in serious leg injuries. Sympathisers rallied round and rushed her to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH. The driver was chased and apprehended and, subsequently, handed over to the Police who, thereafter, impounded the vehicle.

The incident occurred on the Sanusi Fafunwa Road on Victoria Island, Lagos. The driver was charged to court at Yaba Magistrates Court, where he was granted bail in the sum of N1m. The case had been adjourned till July 4, 2022.

The victim was said to have undergone major surgeries, which led to the amputation of her leg. Unfortunately, she could not withstand the pain, as she died on Thursday, June 9, 2022, when family and friends were rallying round to fly her abroad for further medical treatment.

Family cries out

Barely two weeks after her death, the Akinsanya Family, who hails from Ikorodu, Lagos State, is alleging negligence on the part of the hospital medical team, as being responsible for their daughter's death. They claimed that few days to her death, the victim had sent appeal messages to the family members to relocate her from the hospital due to negligence.

To achieve this, friends and well-wishers had taken to the social media to raise appeal fund to the tune of \$20,000 to relocate her abroad for further medical treatment. Unfortunately, they could not meet up with the target before Omotola gave up the ghost.

Angered by the development, the Akinsanyas have registered their plight with LASUTH authorities, which are currently probing the death



•Prof. Adetokunbo Fabamwo, CMD, LASUTH.



•Omotola Akinsanya, the victim

and have promised to take decisive steps on the matter.

Govt steps in
Vanguard Metro can authoritatively reveal that the Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, who was informed of the matter, has ordered investigation into the case.

Similarly, it was learned that the Lagos State Police Command has rearrested the suspect for re-amendment of charges against him. It was also gathered that the hospital authorities were planning to conduct an autopsy on the body for more findings, but the family could not wait for this, due to the circumstance that led to her death.

Family vows to unravel Omotola's death

Head of the family, who resides in Surulere area of Lagos, Venerable Folarin Shobo, spoke with Vanguard Metro in an emotion-laden voice, saying: "The issue now is that Omotola is dead, and her death was compounded by lack of professional treatment by LASUTH. After 11 days in

Intensive Care Unit, ICU, she was moved to orthopaedic ward, where the injury was exposed to infections due to lack of diligent medical treatment. The girl was appealing to us to move her out of LASUTH because she had been neglected.

Our tribulations

"For four or five days, they were not there to de-bridge her leg and she kept appealing that we should take her out of that hospital. She said she was aware that private hospitals could be expensive but they will not neglect her to that extent.

"When the leg was amputated on Friday, June 4, 2022, some of her friends in the United Kingdom saw the need to quickly raise fund to fly her abroad. I was always at the ICU unit and this makes me to wonder if it was Lagos state Government that was running LASUTH because the medical bill was commensurate with that of private hospitals whereas we were not enjoying the services.

"Conservatively, the medical expenses gulped over N11 million, while extra N600,000 was charged before the death certificate was issued. A day before she died, the medical

bill gulped N150, 000.

Billed for greener pasture overseas

"Omotola was born to Omotayo and Sunbo both residing in Lagos. The grandfather was the famous Lawyer Akinsanya in Ikorodu. All efforts were to get her out of the hospital. She just secured a job in the UK and was processing her travel document before the incident occurred. Omotola was a product of Redeemer's University.

"On that fateful day, she was going to collect a reference letter from a VIP before she was hit by the Lebanese. As a family, we promised her that we will use every opportunity at our disposal to unravel her death. Few days before her death, we received a message from the lawyer of the hit-and-run Lebanese that we should compile all the medical expenses and send to him but this was to be sent on June 10, 2022. Unfortunately, our daughter died the previous day and, since then, he has closed all channels of communications.

"As a priest, I have told my congregation about the incident because anything can happen in Nigeria. As for autopsy, I have told Police that we are ready to exhume the corpse if need be."

A senior medical practitioner with LASUTH who pleaded anonymity said the management will unravel the riddle. Contacted, the Chief Medical Director of LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo Fabamwo, said the hospital will not respond to Vanguard enquiries, until the high powered panel of enquiry submit their report.

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