

Trouble as four newborn babies die in Delta hospital

***Only two died - Nurse**

By Paul Olayemi

ANGRY patients and visitors protested, weekend, when four newborn babies suffered neonatal death, minutes after delivery at the Central General Hospital, Sapele, Delta State.

What caused the deaths of the children remains shrouded as sources revealed there was no electricity and one doctor allegedly reportedly drunk.

Sunday Vanguard learned the bereaved mothers gave birth last Thursday night/Friday morning and lost their babies in the labour ward.

Patients and visitors to the hospital, alleging negligence, took to protest in the premises, Friday morning, demanding that government intervenes and investigate the death of the infants.

A brother of one of the bereaved mothers, Mr Benjamin Ikeji, said his sister's husband brought his pregnant wife to the hospital at about 5 pm on Thursday.

"When we brought her, the doctor told us my sister was not in labour yet and I waited

till 10pm before going home. I called my sister this early morning, and she told me that the baby was stuck and the nurses told her they could do nothing since the doctor was not around", Ikeji narrated.

"And when I came this morning, I met the doctor who told me there was nothing she could do since there was no light.

"I bought fuel for them and the next thing I heard was that my sister's baby was dead and all the babies delivered that night died".

Mr Newton Oroba, who said his wife also lost her newborn after delivery at the labour ward in the hospital, same night, alleged the only

doctor who was on duty that night was drunk.

"You could feel it from his breath when he came around 9pm, yesterday (Thursday), and when he left, he did not return", Oroba stated.

He told Sunday Vanguard that when the nurses observed he was worried around 3pm, they told him they had called the doctor and he was not picking "only to tell me my baby was dead."

A nurse, who craved anonymity, said the number of newborns said to have died was not true, adding, "Two died in their mothers' wombs, while two infants died after delivery, it is not the doctor's fault."

Probed further on why the doctor was not around to attend to the women, the nurse kept mum.

FG suspends NAICOM's N4 building purchase, probes process

***We followed due process, mgt insists**

By Soni Daniel, Abuja

The controversy surrounding the move by the management of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) to buy an un-

completed building in Abuja at the cost of N4 billion has taken a new turn, as the Federal Government has ordered the suspension of the purchase.

Apart from the suspension, the Minister of Finance.