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Ekweremadu: Father of David Nwamini, boy involved in UK kidney transplant, dies

By Jeff Agbodo

ABAKALIKI—The father of David Ukpo Nwamini, the boy at the centre of the alleged illegal kidney transplant saga involving former Deputy President of Nigeria's Senate, Ike Ekweremadu, is dead.

The deceased, Mr. Felix Nwamini Ukpo, died on Sunday, as confirmed by one of his sons and David's sibling, Boniface Nwamini Ukpo.

The son said that his father died due to shock from not seeing or speaking with David since 2022 originated from Ekweremadu kidney saga.

In 2022, David was allegedly taken to the United Kingdom to donate his kidney to one of Ekweremadu's daughters, Sonia.

Ekweremadu, his wife, Beatrice, and his Doctor, Obinna Obeta, were later arrested after David had a change of heart and reported to the police. Ekweremadu, his wife, and the Doctor were later arrested and charged in court.

The trio was later convicted by a London court for trafficking the boy from Lagos to the United Kingdom to illegally harvest his kidney for a transplant for their seriously ill daughter.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said in 2023 that Ike Ekweremadu had been sentenced to nine years and eight months in the UK's first illegal organ-harvesting prosecution, while his wife, Beatrice, 56, was sentenced to four years and six months.

Nigerian doctor Obinna Obeta, 51 – described by prosecutors as a middleman – was jailed for 10 years, the CPS said. All three were convicted in March 2023 for conspiring to arrange the travel of a man to harvest his organs.

Little has been heard from the family or David since then, until Monday, when one of the siblings, Boniface, spoke in Abakaliki, to confirm the death of the father.

He lamented that the pains and heartbreak the father had suffered over the son, David's travails, may have contributed to his death.

He said the father had battled with the disappointment of not seeing his son for years.

Boniface further claimed that the family has not spoken with David since the incident happened in 2022.

Enugu host community conversion of LG

By Dennis Agbo

IKEM, the host community of Isi-Uzo local government council headquarters, yesterday, took to the streets of the town to protest the proposed conversion of

Edeoga joins APC, gives reasons

By Dennis Agbo

FORMER Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof Hilary Edeoga, has joined the All Progressives Congress, APC, in Enugu State.

The Professor of Plant Taxonomy and Cytogenetics was formerly of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, where he aspired for governorship of Enugu State in the 2023 election but stepped down from the party ticket to Dr. Peter Mbah.

Declaring for the APC in his Ogbuegu-Amede, Eha-Amufu Ward 4 in Isi-Uzo local government area of Enugu State, in an emergency meeting on Sunday, Prof Edeoga said that he joined the national ruling party because she wants to

continue to contribute to national development.

He stressed that as one who has been a national player, he was anxious to continue mainstreaming in the national arena, more so when his previous political party is bogged down with some crisis.

Edeoga said, "In Nigerian politics, it's not the name that matters; what matters is the way one contributes to the national development. It is the action of the people. I've been a national player, the majority of my work has been at the federal level as a teacher in the federal University and subsequently the Vice Chancellor of the federal University.

So, I need to key into the federal system, and that's why I needed to shift grounds. 'Again, you know that the Party where I was has its internal problems.'