

...ing the hospital yesterday, doctors told them it had been

...ending two days at the home of a pastor, Ronald Wambazi, in Namwezzi, Mbikiko Town

could kidnap Nalule.

"My intention was to get money and I did not know that the people I

of two more suspects but insisted "investigators have made meaningful success in Nalule's murder."

Medics incompetence killing pregnant women - experts

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KAMPALA. Nearly three of every 10 maternal deaths among expectant mothers at Kawempe hospital are caused by onset of hypertension and delayed referrals, specialists at Mulago National Referral Hospital have said.

Commonly known as pre-eclampsia, the condition results from onset of high blood pressure during pregnancy, and sometimes after delivery.

Dr Annette Nakimuli, the head of Mulago hospital obstetrics and gynaecology department, blamed the high pre-eclampsia-related deaths among mothers on lack of skills among lower level health workers. The department has been operating from Kawempe hospital since relocation as Mulago hospital undergoes

renovation. Dr Nakimuli said most mothers from lower health facilities only get referred for better management when in critical condition.

Statistics from Kawempe Hospital indicate the number of pre-eclampsia cases have increased over the years from 14.9 per cent in 2015 to 20.7 per cent in 2016, rising to 23.6 per cent in 2017. Similarly, the number of mothers admitted with pre-eclampsia at the hospital increased from 748 in 2015 to 663 in 2016 and 903 in 2017.

"Health workers usually in the big hospitals like Mulago have the skills but elsewhere; they do not have the skills and fear to give that drug; magnesium sulphate [used for treating the condition]," she said at commemoration of World Pre-eclampsia Day in Kampala yesterday.

The event was organised by Coalition for Health Promotion and

ECLAMPSIA

When pre-eclampsia progresses to eclampsia, the mother starts getting convulsions and chances are high that the mother and baby will both die. Other vital organs of the body such as the liver, kidney, and the brain also get damaged.

Social Development, a health rights organisation, involved touring different hospital units by MPs on the Health Committee and Health ministry officials.

Although there have been efforts to address bleeding during and after birth that used to be the main cause of maternal deaths, Dr Nakimuli said pre-eclampsia is emerging as the number one killer.

Dr Evelyn Nabunya, a consultant obstetrician/gynaecologist, said the management of the fatal condition is

also complicated by the poor referral system with pre-eclampsia mothers who develop complications such as damaged liver, brain and kidney needing physicians who are often not found at the hospital.

Some of the mothers at the nine-bed capacity pre-eclampsia unit that was established in 2010 complained of the rampant stock outs of drugs due to the high numbers. This, they say forces health workers to ask them to buy the drugs from private pharmacies.

"I have spent Shs60,000 in just a period of one week that I have been here [at the unit]. The drugs get finished so fast," Ms Rachael Nabuuma, a pregnant woman recovering from pre-eclampsia, said.

Pre-eclampsia is the third leading cause of maternal deaths after haemorrhage and sepsis, according to the Health ministry.