



Kyomugisha and a relative Habib Ssebyala at Kawempe Hospital. Photo by Violet Nabatanzi

Mother refuses to leave hospital over missing baby

By Violet Nabatanzi

At 7:00pm on Saturday, 21-year-old Immaculate Kyomugisha experienced labour pains. She rushed to Kawempe Hospital to deliver.

When she reached the health facility, she was taken to the labour ward to deliver. She was in the company of her husband and his relatives.

Three hours later, the midwife helped Kyomugisha deliver and she confirmed she had a baby girl and took it away.

A few hours later, Kyomugisha was also transferred from the labour ward on 4th floor and taken to 5th floor for admission. She was later told that she had produced a dead baby. Kyomugisha was not convinced she had given birth to a dead baby.

Kyomugisha's grandmother Hasfa Nassolo also says just because the baby did not cry after delivery does not mean it was dead. She says the baby could have been tired.

The following day (Sunday), in the company

of her husband, relatives and in-laws, Kyomugisha demanded the body of the baby, but in vain.

"We even went to the hospital mortuary to confirm whether the body was there. The mortuary attendant checked the list of the bodies and our body was not there," Jonathan Mutebi, Kyomugisha's husband, said.

Mutebi, 25, said his wife has been going for antenatal services at this facility and the last scan did not indicate that the foetus had a problem.

Yesterday morning, health workers prepared for Kyomugisha's discharge, but she has vowed not to leave the hospital without the baby, dead or alive.

Mutebi and his relatives have reported the matter to Kawempe Police Station.

The hospital administrator, Sarah Ndibalekera, said they would investigate the matter.

Mulago Hospital, which is currently managing Kawempe Hospital, has had cases of theft of babies. Last year, the hospital was dragged to court over a missing baby, by Fatumah Nakayima, the mother.