

Doctors urge restraint amid probe into Nakimuli's death

The 41-year-old legislator reportedly died on Sunday at Alexandra Medical Centre in Kampala following an unsuccessful surgery.

BY TONNY ABET

Leaders of medical doctors' associations have urged the public to exercise restraint and allow transparency in the ongoing investigations into the sudden death of Kalangala Woman MP Helen Nakimuli.

The 41-year-old legislator reportedly died on Sunday at Alexandra Medical Centre in Kampala following an unsuccessful surgery. According to friends and party colleagues, Nakimuli drove herself to the facility for what was expected to be a routine operation, but she passed away during the procedure. Her death has triggered widespread shock and speculation across the country.

Dr Frank Asiimwe, the president of the Uganda Medical Association (UMA), expressed shock at the loss while acknowledging the inherent risks in medical practice.

"As a fraternity, we remain unshakably committed to the highest ethical and professional standards. Our mandate is to ensure the safety and well-being of every patient who entrusts us with their life," he stated.

"We uphold the sanctity of the clinical space and the rigorous protocols that govern surgical practice," he added.

Dr Asiimwe, however, indicated that the medical professionals do not have full control over death. "It is, however, a sombre reality of medical science that



The casket containing the remains of Hellen Nakimuli at Kalangala District headquarters yesterday. PHOTO/ COURTESY

even under the most diligent care and in the most unexpected circumstances, the risk of mortality can never be eliminated," he added.

He appealed to the public to avoid premature speculation and pledged

that the UMA would provide technical expertise to any formal inquiry.

"We are committed to a transparent process that determines whether the optimal standard of care and professionalism were observed, ensuring



Justification.

We urge the public to allow any ongoing investigations to proceed without speculation. Our priority is to pursue the truth and continually improve the medical services we provide to all Ugandans." Dr Frank Asiimwe, UMA president

the facts are established with scientific integrity and fairness to all parties," he said.

"We urge the public to allow any ongoing investigations to proceed without speculation. Our priority is to pursue the truth and continually improve the medical services we provide to all Ugandans," he added.

The body of the late MP was transferred to Mulago National Referral Hospital for a postmortem examination, according to statements from Parliament and the National Unity Platform (NUP). However, the full postmortem report is yet to be released.

Dr Rogers Kajabwangu, the president of the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda (AOGU), confirmed that a clinical audit of the case is underway.

"The audit is still ongoing, and the full postmortem report forms a part of it," Dr Kajabwangu stated. He added that his association is in direct contact with the medical team at the facility and will issue a comprehensive assessment once investigations are complete.

When contacted, management at the medical facility where the legislator reportedly died declined to offer details. "Regarding the death of Hon Helen Nakimuli, we refer all inquiries to the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council," a staff member said.

Attempts to reach the Council's registrar were unsuccessful, as neither calls nor messages received a response.