

In the spot light. Patients at the outpatient department of Nsambya Hospital. A patient has dragged St Francis Hospital Nsambya to the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council over negligence. FILE PHOTO

Kidney failure: Patient drags Nsambya to Medical Council

Issue. Mr Baldwins Karagaba says his wife's kidneys were damaged after she bled for long.

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KAMPALA. A patient has dragged St Francis Hospital Nsambya to the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, accusing the hospital of negligence and abandoning her to over-bleed and suffer kidney failure.

Ms Kyomuhendo Hellen, 27, through her lawyers Daniel, Mugisha & Co Advocates, petitioned the medical council to investigate circumstances under which she was left to bleed uncontrollably without attention on the night she had a normal delivery at Nsambya Hospital last year.

Among other roles, the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council exercises disciplinary control over medical and dental practitioners and protects society from abuse of medical and dental practice.

Ms Kyomuhendo, a procurement professional, states in the petition that she lost a great deal of blood after delivering her first-born at the hospital and is currently in need of nearly Shs150 million to undergo kidney transplant in India.

Her husband, Mr Baldwins Karagaba, told *Daily Monitor* that his wife's kidneys were damaged after she bled for long. "That night I was there at the hospital while she was giving birth. It was unfortunate that I was the only relative with her when she developed labour pains three days earlier than projected," Mr Karagaba said. He said after their arrival at the hospital a few hours before midnight, his wife gave birth at about 1.30am before they were led to one of hospital's private rooms.

Mr Karagaba says disaster struck after a few minutes when he realised that his wife was over-bleeding.

"During that night, no nurse or medical personnel visited her in the room even as she was constantly losing blood, until 5.30am," Mr Karagaba narrated

He said efforts to call for the nurses' help fell on deaf ears as none was available at the time.

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"I kept on seeking help from the nurses and the doctors as they sat in their work-room, but they kept on telling me the bloodletting she was experiencing was normal, and that she was going to be fine," he added.

Mr Karugaba said it was not until about 5.30am that the nurses came into the room, only to find his wife drenched in a pool of blood.

Following the incident, medical documents seen by this newspaper show that Ms Kyomuhendo suffered kidney damage. "We spent over two weeks at Nsambya hospital after the accident as they tried to remedy the condition. They attributed the whole problem to pre-eclampsia, a hypertension condition before giving birth," Mr Karagaba said.

Two weeks after being discharged, Mr Karagaba said his wife suffered a nasty episode of extreme migraine and blood pressure. "We took her to International Hospital Kampala where she was admitted for 16 days. The IHK doctors observed that her kidneys had been severely damaged and they were on a verge of total shutdown," he said.

Ms Kyomuhendo's kidneys are now supported by artificial means of blood cleaning known as dialysis, which she gets twice a week at a cost of Shs600,000.

The doctors have advised that she should get a kidney transplant before the end of December.

When contacted, Dr Edward Ddumba, the head of Nsambya hospital, yesterday said the hospital administration cannot discuss a matter that is still under investigation by the Medical Council.

The couple now wants the Medical Council to expeditiously handle the case that was reported to them in October last year.

In an interview yesterday, Prof Joel Okullo, the Medical Council chairperson, said their investigations have been delayed by the expiry of their term as board members.

"I am aware about the case but the work of the Council is currently constrained until when the Minister of Health appoints a new board to fully handle this matter," Prof Okullo said.

He said as soon as a new board is put in place, investigations into Ms Kyomuhendo's case will be concluded.

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