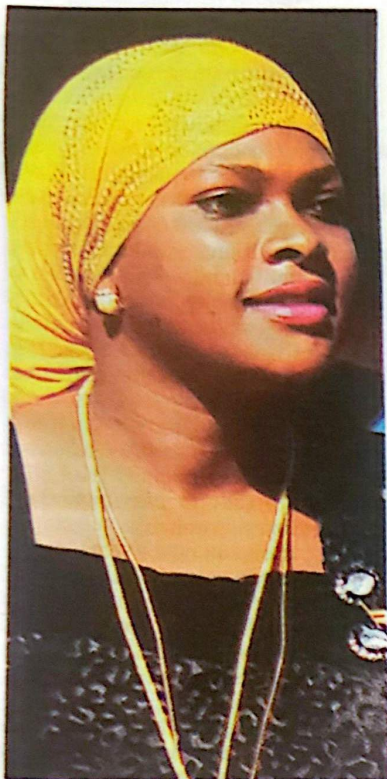




IGANGA DISTRICT WOMAN MP DEAD

BY MOSES WALUBIRI

The Grim Reaper on Friday brought sorrow to the Busoga parliamentary caucus when Grace Hailat Kaudha, the 30-year-old Iganga Woman MP, lost the battle to pregnancy-related complications at Mulago Hospital.

Kaudha, a first-time lawmaker, was elected to the seat on the ticket of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) after defeating then incumbent Olivia Kwagala who had decided to contest as an independent.

Contrary to initial reports that swirled on social media that the youthful legislator had died while giving birth, the chairperson of NRM Parliamentary caucus, Solomon Silwany, yesterday told *Sunday Vision* that Kaudha succumbed to preeclampsia.

Preeclampsia is a condition in pregnancy characterised by high blood pressure, sometimes with fluid retention and proteinuria.

"It is not true that Kaudha died while giving birth. She was not due. Her pregnancy was five months," Silwany told *Sunday Vision* in a telephone interview.

According to Silwany and MP Maurice Kibalya (Bugabula South), Hailat, as the fallen legislator is

fondly called by her fellow legislators, was rushed to a clinic in Kitintale, a Kampala suburb, when her blood pressure shot up.

The medical staff at the Kitintale clinic conceded that her situation was beyond their capacity to handle, whereupon, she was driven to Case Clinic, one of the high-end private health providers in Kampala.

But even at Case Clinic, it was quite apparent that Hailat's condition required more specialised care, which could not be given at the hospital.

It was at this time that the fallen legislator was rushed to Mulago (Kawempe extension) where, according to Silwany, she passed on less than 30 minutes upon arrival.

It is not clear whether in the short time she was at Mulago, a doctor attended to her.

Contacted over Hailat's demise, Mulago Hospital spokesperson Enock Kusasira was reticent, saying unless ordered by the Police or requested by family members of the deceased, the hospital's policy is against releasing information about the finer details of someone who has died at the national referral hospital.

Although the Parliament's director of communications, Chris Obore, was not certain when the burial would take place, Silwany

confirmed that the family members had acceded to a request for burial to take place today.

"Just because there is postmortem to be carried out and an operation to remove the foetus, the family wanted the burial to take place today," Silwany said.

In Hailat's Muslim faith, burial is expeditious and devoid of ubiquity and ceremony.

Yesterday, a number of MPs from Busoga, including Peter Mugema, Moses Balyeku and Silwany camped at Mulago medical school as they waited for the postmortem.

"I came to know Hailat during her parliamentary campaigns, but we had become close. She has been an amiable colleague," Balyeku told *Sunday Vision* in a telephone interview.

The MP has been serving on the committee of rules, discipline and privileges and the committee of gender, labour and social development.

Hailat's death brings to three the number of lawmakers in the 10th Parliament that have passed away over the last 12 months.

Moroto Woman MP Annie Logel died in Denmark, after a surgery to remove a brain tumour went awry while Toroma County MP, Cyrus Amodoi, was a victim of a grisly road accident on the Jinja highway.