

February 12, 2024.

**REPORT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS' HEARING OF THE PETITION OF YOUTHS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (YEAC-NIGERIA) AGAINST FOUR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN RIVERS STATE FOR THE NON-TREATMENT OF LATE DR. BARINE LENE, ACA, A VICTIM OF ALLEGED ROBBERY ATTACK FOR NOT POSSESSING A POLICE REPORT LEADING TO HIS BLEEDING TO DEATH ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 IN ABUJA-FCT.**



On October 6, 2023, the Youths and Environmental Advocacy Centre (YEAC-Nigeria) petitioned on the above incident in a letter addressed to the Honourable Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, through Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Robinson Dekor, Member Representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency in the National Assembly titled **“A PETITION OF YOUTHS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (YEAC-NIGERIA) ON THE NON-TREATMENT OF DR. BARINE LENE, A VICTIM OF ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK BY FOUR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN RIVERS STATE FOR NOT POSSESSING A POLICE REPORT LEADING TO HIS BLEEDING TO DEATH”**. The letter was received at the National Assembly on October 10, 2023.

On October 17, 2023, Rt. Hon. Dum Dekor, a member representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives, took a motion on the petition on the floor of the House, leading to a ruling by the Speaker for the matter to be referred to the House Committee on Public Petitions for investigation.


In a letter dated January 16, 2024, sent to ADVOCACY CENTRE and received on January 23, 2024, the National Assembly House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions summoned parties to the

petition: “Princess Medical Centre” and “Advocacy Centre” for a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2024, by 2:30 PM in “PETITION No. 93 of 2024.”

At the hearing, the petition, which was listed as No. 11 on the agenda of cases to be heard for the day, was called by the Chairman of the Committee, Rt. Honourable Mike Etaba, when it was its turn and he asked parties to enter appearances, starting with the petitioner.

The medical facility was represented by an Abuja-based legal practitioner hired for the purpose and a medical director from the hospital in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, while ADVOCACY CENTRE was represented by its Executive Director, Fyneface Dumnamene Fyneface, and some members representing the deceased’s community, family, and YEAC-Nigeria’s Abuja office.

(It was found when the appearance-entering processes ended that, out of the four hospitals listed in the Advocacy Centre’s petition for allegedly failing to offer medical services to the late Dr. Barine, only Princess Medical Centre, which is number one on the list, was invited by the Committee to appear before it, and it was not mentioned whether there would be another day for other facilities to appear or not.)

  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS**  
**PETITION NO. 93 OF 2024**

**ADVOCACY CENTRE (PETITIONER)**  
**AGAINST PRINCESS MEDICAL CENTRE ON THE NON-TREATMENT OF DR. BARINE LENE, A VICTIM OF ARMED ROBBERY ATTACK BY FOUR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN RIVERS STATE FOR NOT POSSESSING A POLICE REPORT LEADING TO HIS BLEEDING TO DEATH.**

AND

**THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR, (RESPONDENT)**  
**PRINCESS MEDICAL CENTRE.**

**SUMMONS /HEARING NOTICE**

**TO: ADVOCACY CENTRE,**  
Whereas the above named petition is now pending before this Committee and the particulars of the petition aforesaid are already within your knowledge, And whereas, the petition has been assigned to be heard by the Committee for determination.


**YOU ARE HEREBY** required to note Sections 88 and 89 (C) of our constitution (as amended) and appear in person before this Committee on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 at 2:00pm or so soon thereafter as the Committee shall direct.


**Venue: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ROOM 429 (NEW WING)**

You are to Submit one (1) soft and twenty (20) hard copies of your brief on the matter.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that if you do not attend the hearing as required, the case may be heard or determined in your absence.

Issued this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
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**COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**  
**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS**

  
For More Information, Call Clerk: 08038781401/07046281107

**ADVOCACY CENTRE, Head Office:** NO. 10A Khana Street, D-Line, G.P.O. Box 13677, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. Website: [www.centreadvocacy.org](http://www.centreadvocacy.org); E-mails: [info@centreadvocacy.org](mailto:info@centreadvocacy.org); [centreadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:centreadvocacy@gmail.com); Tel: +234(0)8184442989. **Bayelsa State Office:** 8 Chief Dikebi Lott Street, Azikoro Road, Ekeki, Yenagoa. **National Advocacy Centre:** Suit 72, POWA Plaza, APO Resettlement, Abuja-FCT. **International Office** (United Kingdom): White Gates, Common Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2BD, England, United Kingdom, UK Registered Company Number: 14265354: [www.yeac.org.uk](http://www.yeac.org.uk). Email: [hello@yeac.org.uk](mailto:hello@yeac.org.uk)

After the introductions, ADVOCACY CENTRE was asked to adopt its petition, and the 20 copies of briefs submitted with a flash drive. This was done accordingly. Thereafter, its representative, Fyneface Dumnamene Fyneface, was asked to address the Committee. He spoke and summarized the purpose of the petition and demands being made on the Committee in relation to the matter against the hospitals as contained in copies of the petition and brief submitted. Specifically, Mr. Fyneface narrated how a search team for late Dr. Barine Lenee, ACA, led by his younger brother, Kaboloobari Lenee, and Deemene Mgbualu, late Dr. Barine's brother-in-law, among others, visited Princess Medical Centre, where a member of staff on duty at the reception asked the team to wait, and she called those who were on duty the previous night on the phone to ask if any such patient had been brought to the facility the previous night, and they confirmed so, but that he was rejected and not treated. The Advocacy Centre further submitted that it was on the basis of that finding, which correlates with those from other medical facilities listed, that the petition was raised against them even though the matter was also reported to the police for further investigation.



Responding, as expected, the lawyer who represented and spoke for Princess Medical Centre denied, on behalf of the hospital, that they refused to treat the late Dr. Barine Lenee, ACA. The hospital further claimed that late Dr. Barine was not brought to their facility; contrary to earlier confirmation and that they have treated such victims, including those with bullet wounds, in the past and would not have rejected late Dr. Barine. They further said that while his death is sad, painful, and regrettable, they have served others in such emergency situations in the past, as mentioned in their briefs submitted to the committee, and they condoled with the family and Advocacy Centre on humanitarian grounds over the death of late Dr. Barine.

**ADVOCACY CENTRE, Head Office:** NO. 10A Khana Street, D-Line, G.P.O. Box 13677, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. Website: [www.centreadvocacy.org](http://www.centreadvocacy.org); E-mails: [info@centreadvocacy.org](mailto:info@centreadvocacy.org); [centreadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:centreadvocacy@gmail.com); Tel: +234(0)8184442989. **Bayelsa State Office:** 8 Chief Dikebi Lott Street, Azikoro Road, Ekeki, Yenagoa. **National Advocacy Centre:** Suit 72, POWA Plaza, APO Resettlement, Abuja-FCT. **International Office** (United Kingdom): White Gates, Common Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2BD, England, United Kingdom, UK Registered Company Number: 14265354: [www.yeac.org.uk](http://www.yeac.org.uk). Email: [hello@yeac.org.uk](mailto:hello@yeac.org.uk)



**Commenting and ruling on the matter, the Chairman of the Committee, Rt. Hon. Mike Etaba's positions are summarized as follows:**

- i.** That while not holding a brief for the hospital, it is worthy of note that the late Dr. Barine Lenee did not have a card from the hospital such that as he was brought, he would be treated, but he knows that emergency situations, as he was in at that time, do not require a card before his treatment.
- ii.** That the Committee can't investigate the matter and would thus assist both Advocacy Centre and the police to investigate the matter and conclude on time;
- iii.** That the police should conclude its investigation into the matter, and it is when nothing is done afterward that the committee can step in;
- iv.** Described the death of later Dr. Barine as quite painful;
- v.** Calls on YEAC-Nigeria to brief the Committee with details of the police station handling the investigation to enable them to follow up with the police station and facilitate the investigation to come up with a proper report that the Committee will proceed with on the matter. It was given as Inspector General of Police-IGP Monitoring Unit, Port Harcourt following YEAC-Nigeria's petition to the Commissioner of Police, River State.
- vi.** That the Committee is committed to working with Advocacy Centre to unravel the circumstances surrounding the death of the late Dr. Barine for justice to prevail;
- vii.** That there is not enough evidence before the Committee to really hold the hospital accountable at this time;
- viii.** That "We are very, very sorry for the death of Dr. Barine".
- ix.** That for now, the matter is adjourned sine die (without assigning a date for further hearing),
- x.** That the matter is not closed but pending a police investigative report.

**N/B:** *The police must do all they can and release its investigative report as soon as possible. To us, the facility's denial of their alleged refusal to offer medical service to the late Dr. Barine Lenee, ACA, leading to his bleeding to death does not yet mean that it has been exonerated or absolved of wrongdoing. YEAC-Nigeria would continue pushing to ensure that justice prevails to serve as a deterrent to medical facilities across Nigeria that demand police report before attending to Nigerians in emergency situations, a practice that runs contrary to the **Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots Act, 2017.***

**An official activity report of Youths and Environmental Advocacy Centre (YEAC-Nigeria) written by:**

**FYNEFACE DUMNAMENE FYNEFACE,**  
Executive Director, YEAC-Nigeria; [fyneface@centreadvocacy.org](mailto:fyneface@centreadvocacy.org)

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