

INSIST ON YOUR HEALTH CARE RIGHTS AS A NIGERIAN

Most Nigerians don't know this, and that ignorance is costing lives: Since 2014, there has been a powerful law in Nigeria that gives every citizen the right to **FREE** emergency healthcare and basic medical services. This law is called: **THE NATIONAL HEALTH ACT (NHA), 2014** and it was signed into law by President Goodluck Jonathan in October 2014. And yet, 10 years later, millions of Nigerians still don't know it exists. Hospitals disregard the law and Ministry of Health embezzles the funds meant for it.

HERE'S WHAT THIS LAW GUARANTEES YOU Under SECTION 20, SECTION 27, and SECTION 29 of the National Health Act:

1. No hospital in Nigeria has the right to reject you during an emergency whether you have money or not. This means: -Accident victims -Pregnant women in labour -Gunshot victims -Stroke victims -Heart attack and asthma patients -Children in critical condition **MUST** be treated immediately whether they have money or not. It is **ILLEGAL** for hospitals to demand money before saving a life. This includes: -Government hospitals -Private hospitals -Clinics -Mission hospitals -Specialist centers -Teaching hospitals -CHEWs and PHCs

ALL HEALTH FACILITIES are bound by this law. Yes, private hospitals are also obligated to stabilize emergency patients before talking about money. This is not advice. This is not a plea. This is federal law.

2. The Law Also Guarantees Free Essential Healthcare Nationwide

The Act mandates that every Nigerian is entitled to a Basic Minimum Package of Health Services (BMHS), which includes: -Free immunization -Free antenatal care -Free childbirth services -Free family planning services -Free treatment for common illnesses at PHCs -Free care for children under 5 -Free emergency stabilization. These are not promises. These are legal entitlements you can hold the government and hospitals accountable for.

3. The Government Must Finance This with a Dedicated Health Fund. The National Health Act created the: Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF)

To be funded with: At least 1% of Nigeria's entire Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) EVERY YEAR. Meaning: Even if the government doesn't feel like it. Even if budgets are tight. Even if politicians claim "no money" The law forces the government to fund: - Primary health centers -Drugs and medical supplies - Health insurance for the poor -Emergency medical

systems -Maternal and child healthcare This money is supposed to reach all 774 LGAs.

SO WHY ARE PEOPLE STILL DYING IN FRONT OF HOSPITALS?

Because: -Hospitals ignore the law.

-The government refuses to enforce it. -Nigerians don't know their rights. -Corruption drains the BHCPF. - Emergency care is monetized. -PHCs are abandoned. - Private hospitals act with impunity. Patients are turned away for N20,000 Naira. Women die during childbirth because nurses demand "folder fee." Accident victims bleed to death on floors. Gunshot victims are rejected without police report, even though THAT is also illegal. Nigeria do not lack good laws. Our problem is a lack of enforcement and a lack of awareness.

MOST NIGERIANS DO NOT KNOW THEY HAVE THESE RIGHTS.

That's why hospitals get away with murder, literally. A Nigerian can die today in front of a hospital gate because that hospital refused to treat them without payment. Even though the law says: "A health care provider **SHALL NOT** refuse a person emergency treatment for any reason whatsoever." That "**SHALL NOT**" is not suggestion. It is a legal **COMMAND**.

WE SHOULD ALL ASK: If the law exists, If the funding exists, If the obligation exists.... Why are Nigerians still paying with their lives? Why do private hospitals act like they are above the law? Why do government hospitals break rules they are funded to obey?

Why does the Ministry of Health look away? Why do we keep losing mothers in labour, accident victims, and innocent children? Until Nigerians start demanding their rights,

and until hospitals face consequences for rejecting emergencies, this nation will continue burying people who should still be alive.