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Mortuary offers unclaimed body to replace a lost one

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A daughter in Vihiga county has said she went to collect the body of her father at Kamega county general hospital and found it missing on Thursday.

Elam Musinde died at Hope hospital in Vihiga County on March 21, 2015 and his body was transferred to Kakamega county general mortuary the following day.

“The attendants booked the body and asked me to pay Sh5, 200 and they promised to take good care of my father’s body until March 30,” said Josyline Musimbi, daughter to the deceased.

Musimbi said she was told by attendants to bring a coffin and clothes on Wednesday in preparation for the collection of the body the following morning.

However, the body could not be found when she returned on Wednesday evening with the items.

“They asked me to return the following day but still the body was not found. I reported the matter to Kakamega police station,” she told the Star on the phone.

Musimbi said the attendants at the mortuary offered her one of the unclaimed bodies instead but she declined.

Kakamega police boss Richard Ng’etich said investigations into disappearance of the body have started.

The seven mortuary attendants recorded statements at Kakamega police station on Friday.

Medical superintendent Agustin Ajevi could not be reached for comment but sources at the hospital told the Star the hospital is investigating if the body was released to the wrong person.

“Records indicate that two bodies, one for a woman and another for a man were released on Wednesday but only the female was captured in records,” the source said.