

# Ekiti: Woman dumps day-old baby in bush

VICTOR OGUNJE, *Ado Ekiti*

THE rising poverty level among the citizenry is beginning to take its toll on the citizenry as a petty trader, Mrs. Adejoke Ojo and her husband Mr. Dada Ojo, a commercial driver were arrested by men of the Ekiti State Police Command over the weekend for dumping their day-old child in the bush.

The duo were picked at their residence, Number 9, Ikoyi Street in Ikere-Ekiti, following a tip off by the residents.

The husband who denied complicity in the crime, said the wife's action was influenced by forces beyond her control.

Speaking to newsmen, the 26-year-old woman said she gave birth to the baby boy

on Wednesday morning in her Ikere home after labouring for nearly an hour without anybody around to help her or a midwife to assist in delivering the baby.

The mother of three said it was poverty that led her into the act, saying there was no money to take care of herself even when she was pregnant, she could not register in any hospital for antenatal and post-natal treatment.

She added that her major source of worry was how to take care of herself and the three children she already had for the man because her

husband is poor.

But the husband said it could not have been poverty that made his wife to dump their new born baby in the bush.

"I never shy from responsibilities as the head of the family, even though my wife has been out of job about three years ago when her petty business collapsed", he said.

Dada added he had tried to revive wife's business to no avail, because, according to him, "there are many needs to be met and the little I'm making from my job goes to take care of those needs.

"When I returned home from work in the evening, I observed that she has

given birth and asked her about the baby she simply told me that the baby is dead".

On why she could not seek the assistance of her family members, Mrs. Ojo said her poor parents were in the village and not expecting her to come and add to their burden.

The couple, who looked haggard and unkempt when they were taken to the police Headquarters, were remanded in police custody.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Victor Babayemi, told newsmen yesterday that the woman and her child have been released to the State Social Welfare Department.