

'I killed my baby because she was conceived out of wedlock'

Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

BECAUSE she was a bastard" can hardly explain or justify the killing of a one-month-and-seven-day-old innocent baby by the same person who had helped to bring her into this world much less by the same man she would have grown up to call a father. But take it or leave it, Aliyu Bashir of Kofar Kudu in Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area of Kano State would tell whoever cared to listen in no ambiguous terms that he ended the life of the little baby he'd sired and named Maryam because she was conceived outside wedlock.

During a chat with *Weekly Trust* at the Kano police command headquarters on Monday as he was being paraded alongside other suspected criminals, 20-year-old Bashir who appeared calm and composed said that the love affair between him and Hauwa'u, his girlfriend, which culminated in pregnancy, was an old and checkered one. However, by his own account, conceiving outside wedlock was out of the question, because he said they had once planned to marry.

"We were lovers for a long time. Meanwhile, just when I got the approval of her parents to take her as a wife, that is, after they had set a date for us to wed, they (the parents) called me to inform me that the marriage had been called off and that she was going to be married to her relation instead," Bashir narrated.

Bashir said even when Hauwa'u took a brief sojourn to her matrimonial home, her love for him did not die, adding that, "immediately her marriage with the said relation was dissolved, she started running round looking for me until she located me in my house."

Satisfied that she had found the love of her life, according to Bashir, Hauwa'u

moved in with him and remained in his room until the fateful night he made love to her. "We made love only once," he said. Yet, it was that once that was to be historic for Bashir.

According to him, not long after the surreptitious event of that fateful night, information about Hauwa'u's pregnancy reached him. After nine months, his beloved girlfriend delivered a bouncing baby girl for him. "On my instruction, the baby was named Maryam," Bashir revealed. But unlike many fathers

who prayed to be blessed with a child, Bashir was, deep inside him, bitter about fathering a "bastard" child because of the shame and stigma he said was associated with it.

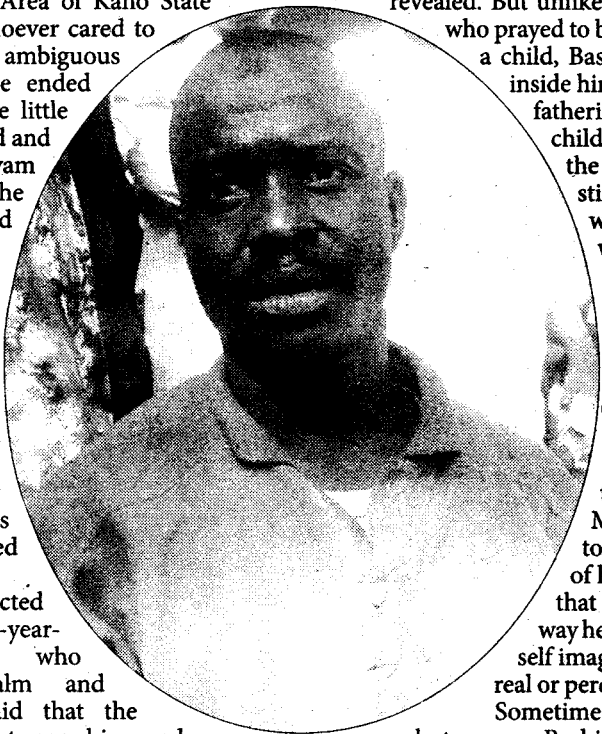
Even though he was not the type who would use his child for quick riches, he concluded that little Maryam had to die for the sin of her parents, as that was the only way he could save his self image and dignity, real or perceived.

Sometime in December last year, Bashir moved to actualise his plan. "I went to Hauwa'u's home and asked her to bring the baby so that I could take her to a nursing home where she would be raised," he revealed, adding that instead of returning her back to her mother, "I went and killed her."

Asked how he killed the innocent baby, Bashir disclosed that he used his hands to suffocate little Maryam until she was breathless after which he proceeded to the burial ground where he buried the baby. He said when he returned empty-handed to Maryam's mother the same day, he simply informed her that the baby had died and he'd buried her.

Bashir said he was later accosted by his village head and accused of killing the innocent baby girl. "I told him yes I killed and buried her in a grave."

The Kano State Police Command said Bashir will be charged to court for culpable homicide.



ALIYU Bashir

Son uses Otapiapia to kill father

Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ACCORDING to 14-year-old Abubakar Buhari who recently killed his father by poisoning the latter's food, he was forced to commit the act because his father refused to among other requests presented to him by Abubakar buy him sallah attire.

The Katsina State Police Commissioner who disclosed this to newsmen in his office last Wednesday said the boy who confessed to the offence listed among the reasons why he decided to get rid of his father the deceased's refusal to sew sallah attire for him after making same for the remaining eight children. He also alleged that his parents beat him incessantly.

Weekly Trust investigations reveal that the incident was the first of its kind in the area, which shocked not only residents of Kadandani village in Rimi Local Government Area, but the entire people of the state. Abubakar had in a chat with our correspondent alleged that both his father and stepmother hate him, especially after his father divorced his mother. He also accused his father of always unjustly beating him whenever his stepmother incites him to do so.

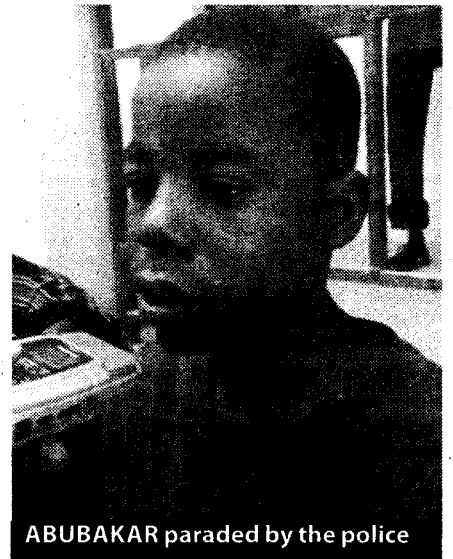
Investigations further conducted by *Weekly Trust* reveal that Abubakar tricked his stepmother by telling her that his father had sent him to collect food from her. He said she was sceptical at first, since she knew that her husband always traditionally ate his meals at home after Isha'i (last prayer of the day), but Abubakar managed to convince her to give him the food. He said he thereafter sat on some blocks in front of their house and poured rat poison (otapiapia) in the food.

According to Malam Isa, the elder brother of the deceased, the deceased's wife, Halima, was initially sceptical about giving Abubakar the food, because it sounded strange to her since her husband traditionally ate at home after he gets back from the night prayer (Isha'i). The sudden change in her husband's attitude, according to the deceased's brother, made her to question the sincerity of Abubakar's claim, but Abubakar insisted on the premise that his father on that day had a visitor with whom they were going to eat the food.

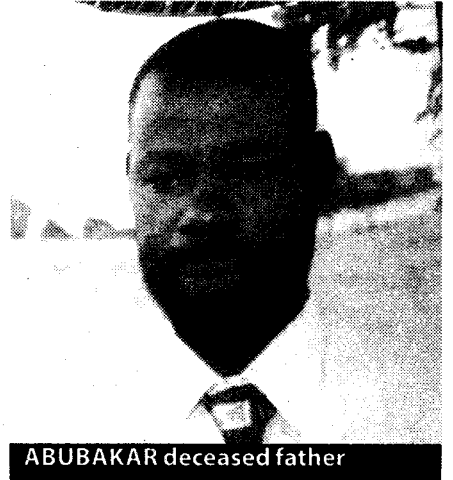
Reluctantly, she gave him the food only for Abubakar to return it a while later with the excuse that he did not see his father outside. Thinking that her husband was offended, Halima asked Abubakar to drop the food in front of his father's mat and waited for her husband to get home so she could ask him why he'd asked his son to take his food outside only to later return it.

Checks by *Weekly Trust* in the house reveal that a short while after the husband ate the food, Halima confronted him and sought to know why he did not eat after sending his son for the food. It was gathered that he vehemently denied and even tried to trace the boy for explanation, but in vain.

Alhaji Isa, the deceased's elder brother, said, "A little later when he started complaining about stomach discomfort, I advised him to take some medicine since he is a nurse. We never thought it could be something that serious until he himself started drawing my attention to the fact that Abubakar may have taken the food in order to poison him. He then asked me



ABUBAKAR paraded by the police



ABUBAKAR deceased father

to arrange for a car to quickly rush him to Rimi General Hospital, but before we could reach a village called Rijiyai mai Siminti, he gave up the ghost."

He said while they were looking for the boy, one of his younger sisters discovered the remnant of the rat poison he'd poured in his father's food outside the house. Isa said they didn't waste further time before apprehending and taking Abubakar to the palace of the district head of Rimi, Alhaji Nuhu Abdulkadir, where he willingly confessed to the offence.

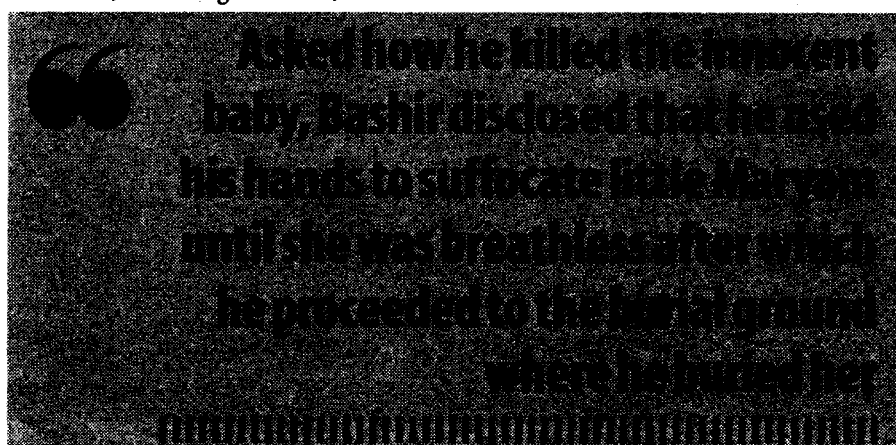
Our correspondent gathered that it was the district head that handed him over to the police after a doctor in Rimi General Hospital confirmed that Abubakar's father, Muhammadu Buhari, had died from poisoning. When questioned, the boy reportedly denied being incited by anybody and said he is in a sound state of mind.

On the allegation of maltreatment, an elder brother to the deceased and some of his brothers who spoke to *Weekly Trust* described it as a blatant lie and said if there was anybody that was preferred by the father, it was the suspect, because everything he got, he specifically reserved for Abubakar, adding, "a mere look at him will tell you how he was being adequately catered for."

Some of the Kadandani village residents who spoke to our reporter described the boy as a spoiled brat that was wrongly influenced by bad friends, admitting, however, that his parents used to scold him over his failure to go to school regularly and take his education seriously. Some of them also confirmed his involvement with drugs, which they said had made him to develop some stealing habits.

Parading him before newsmen, the state Commissioner of Police urged especially anti-social parents to by this incident understand the extent to which their children can go. He advised parents to keep a vigilant eye on their children and the type of friends they keep, adding, "I cannot imagine how a boy of that age could ever contemplate such a dastardly act."

Speaking to *Weekly Trust* at the police headquarters on Wednesday, Abubakar maintained that he was maltreated by his parents, and denied killing his father. He described his previous confession as a result of the intense beating meted out on him by his parents shortly after the incident.



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