

# 'Why I slaughtered my two kids'

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

HASSANA Philip of Wabara Marama village in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State who was charged to court for slaughtering her two children and attempting to commit suicide by stabbing herself with the same knife, said she committed the act after quarrelling with her husband who said he was fed up with paying huge medical bills at the hospital where they were referred to in Jos after complications from earlier pregnancies.

The woman in her late 20s allegedly slaughtered her six-year-

old daughter, Hussaina and her one-and-half-year old son, Joseph on July 20, 2009 and attempted to commit suicide but was rushed to the Biu General Hospital for treatment. She was charged with culpable homicide punishable with death and attempt to commit suicide as provided in Sections 221 and 231 of the Penal Code in March this year.

She told our correspondent in Maiduguri yesterday that she killed her children and planned to kill herself because her husband refused to allow her go to the specialist hospital in Jos for ante-natal medical care, despite earlier medi-

cal advice.

"During my last pregnancy, there were complications and I was transferred from a health centre in Marama to a hospital in Jos where I underwent a caesarian section but in the end, the baby died. When I was discharged, I experienced complications with my urinary tract and I had to undergo another surgery. Afterwards, the doctors warned that we must go back there in the event of another pregnancy. But my husband refused, saying he was fed up and if I want medical care, I should go to my mother," she said.

She added that though she loved her children, she killed them and planned to kill herself so that her husband would lose them all, saying on that day, while her husband was away, "I entered into the house, the entire room was dark. I didn't know what took over me. I just saw myself with a knife. I did not know where it came from and I used it to cut their throats one after the other. It was after I had killed them that I realized that they were my children. I then used the same knife to stab and tried to kill myself. Then the knife fell and I thought I must have collapsed too because I

cannot remember what happened afterwards. I just found myself in the hospital."

Philip Girbi, former husband of the accused, said he returned to find the corpses of his two children in the room and a crowd in the compound who had come to sympathize. The presiding judge, Justice Alkali Gana Wakil at the last sitting instructed that the accused be subjected to a psychiatric test at the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Maiduguri for evaluation in order to ascertain her mental state. The case is to continue on August 11, 2010.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

## Nigerian importers exploited -Minister

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

IMPORTERS in Nigeria buy finished goods at prices that are not favourable and this in turn makes the country's export earnings paltry, Minister of Finance Mr Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga said in Maiduguri yesterday.

Aganga made the remark in his address at a two-day zonal sensi-

