

Commissioner tasks NGOs on vulnerable persons

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Folashade Shinkaye, has charged Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to initiate programmes that would improve the standard of living of vulnerable persons in the society.

The commissioner, represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr. Augustine Gwatana, gave the charge Tuesday in Lokoja at a skills acquisition workshop organized for the elderly in the state by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

She promised to replicate the programme in all the 21 local government areas of the state and appealed to the beneficiaries to utilize the opportunity well.

The Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Josephine Anenih, who was represented by Mrs. Jojeta, said income support and skill acquisition were necessary for the elderly, owing to their vulnerability.

She maintained that there was a need to encourage old persons to engage in some income generating activities to make them self-reliant.

The minister, who listed the skills to be learnt at the workshop to include soap making and cloth dyeing, added that the skills' acquisition workshop has so far been held in 10 states.

Man, 54, to hang for killing over affair with wife

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

A High Court in Maiduguri yesterday sentenced a 54-year-old man, Abdul Mahadi, to death by hanging.

Mahdi, who hails from Mafi village in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State, was taken to court for killing one Bammi Isa. According to court documents, the accused killed Isa for allegedly having an affair with his wife.

He was also said to have told the police that the problem started when he and his wife started having

disagreements over minor issues.

"I was later told by one Usman Adam, who is also resident in my house that late Bammi Isa was having an affair with my wife.

"And on Sunday December 17, 2006, my wife and some other people went to the Miringa market, but when the people came back, my wife was not with them. I then assumed that she went to see Isa, so I ambushed and killed him," part of the accused's statement read.

Before judgment was delivered, the defense counsel pleaded

for justice to be tempered with mercy as his client was a first time offender and an old man with dependents.

Delivering judgment, Justice Pindar Haruna Nggada, said the accused, who was arraigned before the court on charges of culpable homicide punishable with death under Section 221 of the Penal Code, was found guilty as charged.

She added that the prosecution proved its case beyond reasonable doubt with testimonies from three witnesses.