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How adulterous mum killed, dumped own baby

Saturday, 22 January 2011 00:00 Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

A twenty-five-year-old housewife who gave birth to a baby four months after she got married, is now in police custody for allegedly strangling the infant. Umimi, the second wife of a trader in Sauna area, within Kano metropolis, was arrested Tuesday by officials of the Nasarawa Local Government Hisbah Command following the discovery of a newborn baby's corpse on a bushy, undeveloped plot of land along Ali Akilu Road in Bompai.

Newly married Umimi was suspected of dumping the baby, having reportedly visited her relations on Monday from her Sauna matrimonial home and her aunty's children claimed seeing her holding an opaque polythene bag as she prevented them from following her into the house by shutting the gate.

The same children had gone on the fenced plot on Tuesday afternoon when they discovered the baby girl draped in a piece of cloth tucked away in the polythene bag. The kids said their father, Mallam Ahmad Mika'il Abdullahi, quickly alerted their mother.

After Umimi was arrested by the Hisbah men, she put up a long prevarication before owning up that she actually gave birth to the baby a week ago and hid it inside her room before dumping it. Explaining to Weekly Trust, Umimi held that she got married five months ago, saying then "the pregnancy was only five months old." She was lucky, according to her, even with a relatively small physique, the pregnancy was not discovered even by her husband up to the day she delivered it inside the family bathroom.

Umimi said: "My husband appeared to be curious or suspicious about the size of my tummy, even though he never said anything about it. Whenever he tried to touch it, I would cleverly shove his hand away." When she started labour on that fateful Friday, Umimi silently walked into the bathroom and after some time she gave birth. "I tied cloth on its mouth to prevent it from crying. Because I lost a lot of blood in the bathroom, I became unconscious and remained on the ground for long. Thereafter, I took the baby into my room and hid it. I did not bring it out until last Monday when I went and threw it away," she said.

She recalled that when her husband returned from market, he was shocked by the blood he saw in her room. However, when he asked about it, Umimi said she told him she had a miscarriage and proposed that he could sleep in her co-wife's room instead. Umimi further disclosed to Weekly Trust that she was impregnated by one Aminu Ahmad, her relation and an undergraduate of Bayero University, Kano, maintaining that all her efforts to terminate the pregnancy during the early stages was thwarted by the alleged father, whom she said did not take the matter seriously and even used it to extort money from her. She recalled having sexual affairs with the said Aminu inside his father's room. Two months after giving in to Aminu's advances, Umimi said she noticed that she had taken in. "But when I met and told him about my condition, he dismissed it saying I should go and do what I can do as that was not his problem."

With the pregnancy still on, Umimi got married four months ago and managed to keep her husband out of the picture until Tuesday when she was arrested. Attempts to speak to the husband however failed as he was said to be away when our correspondent visited his Sauna home.

Aminu, like Umimi, is being detained at the Bompai Divisional Police Headquarters and he admitted to having had intercourse with Umimi but told our correspondent that he never wanted the pregnancy to be terminated.

Meanwhile, the Kano Police Command Public Relations Officer, ASP Musa Magaji Majia, said investigations into the case has since commenced, adding that Umimi's husband has already been questioned. The police spokesperson also noted that the case is going to be transferred to the state CID.

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