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Father kills son with chemical herbicide

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Written by Ali Garba, Bauchi



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• Bauchi court convicts father for poisoning his own nine-month-old child, bags six-year imprisonment

THE Bauchi State High Court, Number 10, presided over by Justice Abdulkadir Hussein Suleiman, has sentenced a father to six years imprisonment for administering chemical herbicide to his nine-month-old child.

Counsel to the State Ministry of Justice, Sha'awanatu Yusuf, earlier

told the court that on June 6, 2013, the suspect, Shitu Adamu of Zakshi Village in Toro Local Council, poisoned his biological son by administering the poisonous chemical on him, which led to the death of the son.

She said the suspect's act is culpable homicide, punishable with death, which is contrary to Section 221 of the Penal Code.

In his evidence, Police investigator, Sargent Caiphas Adamu, told the court that the accused, who is a father of two children, had confessed to have committed the crime during investigation.

He told the police that his son was sick and his wife, who was four months pregnant at the time, took him to hospital and his wife returned with a list of prescription; but since he had no money on him to buy drugs, he administered the remaining chemical herbicide on the boy, thinking it would cure him of the illness.

The prosecutor said the accused had attributed his action to poverty and unemployment and regretted his action in his confessional statement.

In her evidence, the wife of the accused, Lantana Shitu, said she went to fetch water on June 6, 2013 in a pond and "when I came back, I saw my son vomiting, he later died the same day. I didn't know what had happened until three days after when our village head called my husband over the issue and he confessed that he was the one who poisoned him with herbicide chemical."

In his Judgement yesterday, the presiding judge, Justice Abdulkadir Suleiman, who cited so many authorities said: "I have considered his plea for leniency made by his counsel on his behalf, I have also taken into account that the convict is first offender and appeared to be remorseful throughout the trial, taking all these into consideration, I hereby sentence him to six years imprisonment, commencing from June 24, 2013, the day he was first taken to remand."

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