

DAY-OLD BABY FOUND ON ROOFTOP

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Residents of Barkin Sale in Chanchaga local government council of Niger State could not believe their eyes as they woke up last Friday morning to behold what could best be described as manslaughter of an abandoned day-old baby boy, by a yet to be identified mother and accomplice, both of who were still on the run as at press time.

The incident occurred as the mother of the baby simply demonstrating signs of irresponsibility threw the baby with placenta on top of the roof in the dead of the night when everyone might have retired to bed.

Investigation by our correspondent indicated that no sooner that the unlucky baby was delivered by his runaway mother, that an unidentified suspect carried the baby with his yet to be severed placenta, made for the roof top of a shop in the neighbourhood and dumped the baby boy on the zinc roofing, probably to be consumed by the wilds of the night or by the heat generated by the roof top.

A source from the neighbourhood who craved anonymity told our correspondent that no sooner was the unfortunate baby dropped on the rooftop by the fleeing suspect, than the boy gave up the ghost few minutes later as the lifeless body was discovered last Saturday morning.

Though some residents had complained of hearing baby cries for some time, the source hinted that the cries shortly died down perhaps when no one came out in the dead of the night to rescue the tot from the claws of death.

While the mother of the baby is yet to be identified, it was however trouble for the owner of the shop at daybreak when people gathered in front of the shop, apparently seeking answers as to how the baby came to be that way.

As they gathered to catch a glimpse of the lifeless body of the baby, our correspondent gathered that the crowd later invited the police who were said to have invited the shop owner for explanations as the throng only grew larger.

A team of policemen attached to Kpakungu Divisional Police thereafter visited the scene of the incident and on close observation discovered that the little boy had died as a result of heat or cold of the night being generated by the zinc.

The police, it was gathered, quickly dispersed the gathering crowd as the source informed our correspondent that "the police quickly cordoned off the scene after obtaining the name of the shop owner whose roof the baby was dropped."

After the corpse was brought down from the roof by the police, it was taken to the Ward head of Barkin Sale simply referred to as Mai Angwa, who was said to have directed that the remains of the baby boy

be buried immediately.

The source told our correspondent, “We had no choice than to obey the instructions of the community leader since the police could not take an unidentified corpse of a day old baby to the Minna General Hospital mortuary.”

Meanwhile, upon the invitation to the Kpakungu police station for further investigations, the shop owner simply identified as Tajudeen Yusuf told the police that he knew nothing about the abandoned baby as his shop was closed on the fateful day of the incident.

Asked whether he had a pregnant girlfriend prior to the incident that he rejected or failed to accept responsibility for, Yusuf was said to have responded in the negative, insisting that he had no link whatsoever to the abandoned child.

As at the time of filing this report, the police in the state was yet to own up to any clue as to how the child got to be on the roof, or apprehend the mother of the unlucky baby.

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