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Bauchi court convicts father for poisoning child

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

Earlier, counsel to the State Ministry of Justice, Barrister Sha'awanatu Yusuf told the court that on June 6, 2013 the suspect, Shitu Adamu of Zakshi Village in Toro Local Government Area poisoned his nine-month-old biological son by administering herbicide chemical on him.

She said the act is culpable homicide punishable with death contrary to section 221 of the penal code.

In his evidence, police investigator, Sergeant 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 was said to have told the Police that the child was sick and his wife who was four-month pregnant at that time took him to hospital.

He said when his wife gave him the list of drug prescriptions for the child, he has no money at that time, adding that he was confused and he administered the remaining chemical herbicide on the child thinking that it will cure him, “but unfortunately the boy died”.

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 “when I came back I saw that my nine-month-old son was vomiting then he died the same day. I don’t know what had happened until three days later when our village head called my husband about the issue and he confessed that he was the one who poisoned him with herbicide chemical”.

In his judgement on Monday, 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 a first offender and appeared to be remorseful throughout the trial, taking all these in 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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