

Housewife docked for alleged killing of stepson

A 30-year old house wife, Mrs Jumai Ocheni, has been sued before a Lokoja Chief Magistrate's Court for allegedly killing her one-year old stepson through poisoning.

Prosecuting police officer, Inspector Paul Elaigwu, told the court on Tuesday that the accused should be charged with culpable homicide.

"The offence contravenes Section 221 of the Penal Code," Elaigwu said.

The police officer told the court that Jumai, who hails from Olaji 1, Abejukolo, in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State, was the second wife in the family.

According to the prosecution, husband to the accused, Ocheni Madaki, who reported the matter to the police, said that he was at home when the incident occurred at about 3.30 p.m.

He said that his dead son, Mona Ocheni, was playing with other children in the compound when the accused took him (Mona) behind the house and administered the poison on him.

Madaki explained that Mona started vomiting almost immediately and was rushed to the hospital where he later died.

Elaigwu urged the court not to grant the accused bail on the grounds that the police were still investigating the matter.

He said that the case file would be duplicated and sent to the state Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for legal advice.

Elaigwu, however, withdrew his objection to the bail when he was reminded by the Chief Magistrate, Sam Atsumbe, that the accused was a nursing mother.

The father of the dead child also urged the court not to remand Jumai in prison the, saying "the baby (she is breast feeding) is also my child."

"I have already lost one and only God knows what will befall this one if the accused is remanded in prison," he said.

Jene Ocheni, the mother of the child, also pleaded with the court not to remand the accused in custody.

"I am the mother of the dead child. In the circumstance of this case, I am pleading with the court not to remand her in prison as efforts are being made to reconcile both of us," she said.