

Police probe widow over killing of minor

THE police in Jalingo have invited a widow, Mrs Sylvia Tanko, 45, for interrogation for allegedly killing her minor.

Police sources said in Jalingo that the suspect, of Nukkai Ward in Jalingo, allegedly killed her minor, Master Emmanuel Tanko, 4, last Friday, after four days of torture.

The suspect said to be mentally deranged, lost her first husband some years ago and also lost her second husband two months ago.

She was said to be having inheritance problems with some relations of her late husband.

When our Correspondent got to the accused's house, the body of the deceased was seen wrapped in a cloth and laid on the floor.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for Taraba Command, Mr Fwaje Atajiri, con-

firmed the incident, saying that the accused was in police's net.

Atajiri said though the woman was said to be insane, the police would employ the

services of a medical doctor to confirm the state of the her mind.

woman doing now could be diversionary tactics, as somebody could just be mentally depressed and claims to be mentally deranged", he said.

Bayelsa Govt signs maritime academy agreement

BAYELSA State Government has signed an agreement with a Norwegian firm for the establishment of a safety training centre and a maritime academy in the state.

The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr Boladei Igali, signed on behalf of the state government while Mr Ingebright Holst-Dyrnes signed for the Norwegian company.

In a speech on the occasion, Governor Goodluck Jonathan said with competent manpower and commitment on the part of government, the hostile environment in the state could be conquered.

"This is part of the state government's efforts at empowering the youth and giving them the necessary skill to

fit into the maritime industry in which the state has a comparative advantage," he said.

Jonathan said the safety training centre would be the first phase of the programme, which would culminate into the establishment of a maritime academy that would be of international standards.

Jonathan who recalled that the Ijaws had dominated the country's maritime sector in pre-colonial days, decried the fact that the number of indigenes in the industry was fast dwindling.

The governor said the situation was very worrisome and needed to be reversed.

He expressed the hope that the establishment of the centre would re-position the people to reclaim their rightful

place in the maritime industry and give the youth the opportunity to develop their maritime skills.

Jonathan said with the cabotage law aimed at giving Nigerians a greater stake in the maritime industry, the people must brace up to play a crucial role in the industry and maximize the good intentions of the law.

Jonathan assured the people that government would fulfill its part of the bargain to ensure that the academy comes on course soon.

Explaining, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), said as a precursor to the establishment of the centre, the firm in collaboration with the government would train a total of 200 youths, drawn from the

various council areas.

According to him, the first batch of 32 persons will proceed to Norway in the next six months, adding that those trained in maritime safety would form the bulk of intakes into the academy.

In his remark, the Chairman of the firm, Mr Ingebright Holst-Dyrnes, thanked the governor for partnering with the firm, pointing out that Norway was a major player in the international maritime industry.

Holst-Dyrnes noted that the training in maritime safety was a prerequisite for all seamen who desired to handle deep sea-going vessels.