

PHOTO: SYLVESTER OKURUWA.

Outrage over death of housemaid allegedly raped by father, son

JOHNSON BABAJIDE -
MAKURDI

HUNDREDS of women drawn from all walks of life stormed the premises of the Chief Magistrates' Court One in Makurdi, Benue State, on Thursday, booing a lecturer of the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo, Mr Andrew Ogbuja, who was arraigned for alleged rape, which led to the death of a 13-year-old housemaid.

The women carried placards to protest the death of the girl, Elizabeth Ochanya, who was allegedly raped by the 51-year-old lecturer and

his son on several occasions, and later died of Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF).

The lecturer was, in August, arraigned at the Upper Area Court in Makurdi for alleged rape of the 13-year-old.

He was, however, arraigned on Thursday, on a fresh charge of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide.

When the case came up, the First Information Report (FIR), read to the accused said that on October 22, a case was reported by one Evangelist Enuwa Soo through a letter of petition to the Benue State Commissioner of Police, that

on June 23, the family of Elizabeth noticed that the lecturer and his son had been having unlawful carnal knowledge of the girl since she started living with them in their house, and the act resulted to her being diagnosed with VVF and other diseases.

The FIR report further revealed that the girl was admitted at the Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi, where she later died on October 17.

The FIR report further revealed that during police investigation, the lecturer was arrested for the offence, while his son is still at large, stating that the offence contravened Section 97 and 222

of penal code laws of Benue State 2004.

Counsel to the accused, Anthony Onoja, told the court that the media had been awashed with reports of his client, who had not been found to be guilty of the offence, stressing that such reports would not allow the matter to go on smoothly.

Onoja appealed to the trial judge to protect the defence team from journalists, while cautioning the authority of Women Lawyers (FIDA) on the case.

However, counsel to FIDA, Prisca Ula, told the court that FIDA had the right to watch over brief for the police and that no law

was about showing love to the underprivileged.

The relief materials donated included bags of rice, mattress, pillows, carton of noodles, body cream, toilet soaps, plastic buckets among others.

In his remarks, the state governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, expressed his gratitude to POWA for the gesture, saying the item would go a long way in easing the sufferings of the displaced people.

Edo govt gets tough on thuggery to amend laws to curb cultism

THE Edo State governor Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has revealed that plans were underway to amend law in the state to provide for stiffer measures aimed at curbing cultism.

The governor disclosed