

Man charged with killing pregnant wife had marital issue with deceased —Witness

Saliu Gbadamosi | Abuja

A prosecution witness on Wednesday told a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), sitting at Maitama, Abuja that a man charged before the court with killing his pregnant wife, Mathew Anykooor and the deceased, Doorsu, had a long-time marital issue.

Anykooor is being tried before Justice Peter Affen by the police on a three-count charge bordering on culpable homicide punishable by death.

The police alleged that on June 5, 2017, at about 8:30pm at Lugbe area of Abuja, the defendant caused the death of his wife, Doorsu, who was eight months pregnant, an offence punishable under Section 221 of the Penal Code Law.

He was also accused of causing the death of an unborn child by an act amounting to culpable homicide, as he was said to have caused the death of one unborn child of his wife, contrary to Section 236 of the Penal Code Law.

Anykooor, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge pre-

ferred against him by the police.

Testifying as the second prosecution witness (PW2), the witness, Miss Deborah Samuel, a policewoman attached to Lugbe division of the Nigeria Police, informed that in the course of investigating the crime, she understood that the defendant and the deceased were husband and wife.

According to her, the couple had a long-time marital issue which always resulted in domestic violence.

"And during any little misunderstanding, the suspect [defendant] would beat the deceased," she told the court.

The witness informed that on June 5, 2017, Anykooor beat the deceased over a mere argument, adding that, "he pushed her and she fell to the ground.

"It was at that point she started gasping for air [breath], calling for help, while a close neighbour, named Janet, rushed to her rescue, and she was taken to Wuse General Hospital."

She informed that the deceased passed on before getting to the hospital, adding

that she was operated upon to remove the baby inside of her.

"The baby brought out of her was confirmed dead due to the cruel act of the accused," she stated.

The case, according to Samuel, was reported at the Lugbe division by one Emmanuel Asuga, who she said

made a statement to the police.

While being cross-examined by the counsel for Anykooor, Ochereme Adama, Samuel stated that she investigated the case, adding that she visited the scene of the crime.

Meanwhile, at the close of

her testimony, the prosecution counsel, Donatus Abah informed the court that the prosecution was closing its case against the defendant.

This, Abah, stated, was as a result of the difficulty the prosecution was facing in bringing its witnesses to court to testify in the case

with a view to proving its case against the defendant.

Following the disclosure, Adama stated that the defence would open its defence instead of making a no-case submission.

In view of this, Justice Affen adjourned the case till Monday, July 22.



A fallen trailer at Iponri, Lagos State on Wednesday. Photo: Sylvester Okoruwa