

Residents dump refuse on road medians in Ibadan, Oyo State. Pictures show situation at Oke Bola and Orita Challenge areas. Photo: Tommy Augustus

Bariga housemaid's death controversy: Couple files no-case submission

Segun Kasali | Lagos

THE Nwankwo family accused of the murder of their housemaid, Joy Adole, has told an Ikeja High Court that they have no case to answer.

Fortune and Stephen Nwankwo are facing a four-count charge bordering on conspiracy, involuntary manslaughter and accessory after the fact to murder.

The couple was accused of killing 19-year-old Adole on April 20, 2020, at their residence at Number 18, Ogun-

dola Street, Bariga, Lagos.

The couple, however, denied the allegation, claiming that Adole committed suicide by hanging herself in her bedroom.

At the resumption of trial, Fortune and Stephen, who were to open their defence, filed a no-case submission through their counsel, Mr O.I. Barrah.

Meanwhile, the prosecutor, Mrs Abike Oluwasanmi, said the prosecution needed time to respond to the no-case submission.

At the last proceeding on July 30, a pathologist, Dr Sunday Soyemi, who testified on behalf of the prosecution, said the cause of Adole's death could not be ascertained because her corpse had been embalmed.

Dr Soyemi said: "The housemaid's corpse had been embalmed at a morgue at Yaba, Lagos, before it was brought by authorities to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital for an autopsy."

The Investigating Police Officer (IPO) of the case,

Mr Ajibola Oderinde, told the court during the July 30 proceeding that authorities believed Adole was killed because her body was found under suspicious circumstances.

The IPO said investigations revealed that Fortune assaulted Adole on April 19, 2020, and that her body was discovered by Stephen on April 20, 2020.

The case has been adjourned till November 3 for the hearing of the application.