bout three months after the Court of Appeal upheld a previous ruling that popular Hausa movie actress, Rabi Ismail, should be hanged for murder, it appears that another movie personality, Nura Imam, may join her on the death row.

Imam, 30, is currently facing a murder charge at a magistrate's court sitting in Kano for allegedly killing his own child.

The actor, believed to be one of the rising stars in the film industry, must prove that he had no hand in the death of the infant.

Interestingly, Imam's role in this drama bears an uncanny resemblance with a film titled, Shaida, in which he is cast in the role of a recalcitrant lover who makes an underage girl pregnant.

The illicit relationship results in the birth of a love-child. And in a fit of anger, he killed the baby and his own brother for daring to insist he marry the mother of the child.

Unfortunately, in what looks like a replication of the plot of the film, the actor was charged to court on October 13, 2011 for indulging in a premarital affair with one Hadiza Yakubu, which resulted in pregnancy.

Imam is currently standing trial for killing the product of the affair.

Hadiza, a student of the Federal College of Education, Kano, had lodged a complaint with the police, claiming that Imam committed the crime on

September 4, 2011. In the First Information Report of the police, which was read to the actor before the magistrate court presided by Magistrate's Umma Kurawa, Imam was alleged to have visited Hadiza at about 8am on that day just to see her baby.

The report stated, "Hadiza gave birth to a baby boy. When you (Imam) came to see the baby, she left you with the baby in her room. But when she returned, she discovered the baby crying uncontrollably.

'However, on observing that the baby's condition did not improve, she rushed him to a nearby clinic for thorough medical examination, where he later gave up the ghost.

Imam denied the content of the FIR read to him in Hausa language, in compliance with the provision of Section 242 of the Criminal Procedure

He pleaded not guilty of the offence culpable homicide, contrary Section 222 of the Penal Code law.

Sergeant Badamasi Yau, the police prosecutor, went on to apply that the case be adjourned till another date, since police investigation into the matter was still in progress when the case was first heard in court.

In his application, the counsel to the accused, Musa Abubakar, averred that he was not opposed to the adiournment of the case. But the defence counsel applied accused be admitted on bail since he entered undertaking an would that he not tamper with police

investigation. "The accused will not interfere with investigation



in relation to any possible witness, or witnesses, or jump bail and would be witnesses, or jump bail and would be available for his trial if needed, and will provide reasonable and responsible sureties as may be required for his bail as provided by law," Abubakar pledged before the court.

He said the accused person was presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

In his response, the police prosecutor opposed the application under Section 341 of Criminal Procedure Code, pleading with the court to consider the magnitude of the offence for which the accused is charged. He observed that the court had no such jurisdiction to release Imam on bail.

But the counsel to the accused added that it was not right in law for the prosecution to oppose bail of an accused person without any tangible

cogent reason, while the court could not exercise its discretion in favour of admitting the accused person on bail.

He said he agreed that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the substantive case, but it has jurisdiction to remand the accused person in prison custody and submitted that the court had unfettered jurisdiction to admit the accused on bail instead of remanding in prison custody him for long duration.

He said, "From multiple

authorities, this court cannot prevent the accused from

exercising his fundamental human rights."

Delivering her ruling, the presiding magistrate stated that the court couldn't release the accused person on bail because it lacked the jurisdiction to hear and determine the case

"Likewise, it has no jurisdiction to grant him bail. Therefore, application made by the accused counsel is hereby refused,"

Expectant mother, others held for novel method of drug trafficking

Comfort Oseghale and Ademola Olonilua

n expectant mother, Tawakalitu Adebayo, had officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency gaping at her in disbelief when they detected five kilogrammes of dissolved cocaine in her clothes.

Adebayo was arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport while returning from Sao Paulo, Brazil via Qatar Airline.

She told CRIME DIGEST that she had travelled to Brazil, with the intention of giving birth there.

She said, "I was forced to cut short my trip and return to Nigeria because my host was not hospitable. After two weeks, I was already broke and I had to raise some money for my return ticket. I truly regret my action.

The NDLEA commander at the airport, Alhaji Hamza Umar said, "The drug was discovered in her luggage during a routine check. The cocaine was first dissolved in water and Adebayo's clothes soaked in it to absorb the liquefied drugs. The clothes were then dried

and packed, to be extracted on Adebayo's The Chairman/Chief Executive of the Agency Ahmadu Giade described this method of drug concealment as

the first ever recorded in Nigeria. He said, "This seizure is simply amazing. As we commend the arresting officers, we must all appreciate the sophistication of drug syndicates in the country. Every day, drug

criminals adopt new tricks of smuggling narcotics and we must remain proactive in our counter-efforts. This development places a demand on the agency to intensify efforts and training and retraining is crucial

and will continue to be given priority.' Adebayo appealed to the NDLEA to set her free, but the agency insisted that she would be charged to court for trafficking in

Giade said, "Pregnancy is not a licence for drug trafficking. This is a warning to other pregnant women to shun drug trafficking or be prepared to face the legal consequence. If convicted of unlawful possession and importation of cocaine, Adebayo could spend a minimum of 15 years in prison custody.

In a similar development, the NDLEA arrested two suspected drug couriers, Ezeanochie Nnodi and Amoo Durowoju, in Lagos as they attempted to smuggle drugs out of the country to Malaysia and Ireland, respectively.
Nnodi told *CRIME DIGEST* that he got involved in

drugs to save his family from death.

He said he was offered \$2,000 to ingest hard drugs at a time when his house was marked for demolition by the government and he had no money to relocate.

He said, "I am a dealer in auto spare parts at Ladipo Market in Lagos. I am married with two children. I was forced into smuggling drugs because I wanted to save my family from death.

The house where I live with my family may collapse anytime. Some of my co-tenants have relocated, but I do not have anywhere to go. I am afraid and

Durowoju said that he smuggled drugs to save his daughter from death. "I live in France. I came to Nigeria to see my wife who was delivered of a baby two weeks ago. I was in France when we had our first child and I came to be with her this time. Unfortunately, my little born child had a hole in the heart and the doctors said that they needed money for an urgent surgical operation. This was how I got involved in this mess. I really feel bad because I had been caught and my daughter I was told had died," he said.

Umar said both suspects had completely expelled the drugs they ingested. "The two suspects, were placed under observation. Nnodi excreted 75 wraps weighing 1.185kg of substances that tested positive for methamphetamine, while Durowoju excreted 60 wraps of substances that tested positive for cocaine weighing 1kg," he said. He added that they would be charged to court.

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