

Mob burns Kaduna electric meter thief

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Kaduna Commissioner of Police, Rabi'u Muhammad

By Israel Bulus

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Palpable tension has gripped residents of Narayi community in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State after a suspected electricity meter thief was lynched and burnt to ashes in a mob action.

The incident, which reportedly occurred recently, raised concerns over the audacity of criminal activities in the area.

Narrating the incident, a resident, Mrs. Patricia Bassa, told Arewa PUNCH that the suspect had, late on the night around 11pm, invaded a compound to steal a prepaid electricity meter when he was confronted by the house owner.

“The thief stormed the man’s residence, thinking he would be far asleep by that hour of the night to remove his meter, but when the man heard a noise and came out, the suspect stabbed him before taking to his heels.

“The victim, writhing in pain, struggled to hold on to himself and raised an alarm which attracted other residents in the neighbourhood who quickly mobilised themselves and went after the thief in a hot chase,” Bassa said.

She added that the mob pursued the suspect towards the Narayi Police Station axis, where he was caught and doused with fuel before he was set ablaze.

“He ran towards the burial ground cemetery area as the inferno burned and scorched every part of his body. Unable to carry on as he suspected the thief struggled towards a dirty pond in the bid to quench the burning flame on his body, he fell down.

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“It was at this point that some of the hoodlums earlier in his pursuit caught up with him and finished him. They killed him and burnt his body,” she further narrated the chilling incident to our correspondent.

According to Bassa, the corpse of the suspect was later deposited at the Sabo Tasha General Hospital, where it has yet to be buried.

Another neighbour who is an electrician confirmed the Bassa narration, saying, “You know our people in this area, especially the youth, they don’t spare thieves, burglars, robbers in this area.

“The youths here are very active and well mobilised against such threats here. I don’t know why that meter thief got the mindset and audacity to venture into Narayi to steal. Indeed, it was a miscalculation and a big judgment of error on his part,” he pointed out.

“As much as I hate jungle justice and do not subscribe to it, I think it will teach others a good lesson. Stealing or crime in any form isn’t the best way to go about it,” he maintained.

Meanwhile, our correspondent’s efforts to reach the Kaduna State Police Command’s Public Relations Officer, DSP Mansir Hassan for a confirmation of the story as at press time proved abortive, as calls and text messages put across to the spokesman were not responded to.

Arewa PUNCH reports that the development has sparked fears among Narayi and other adjoining residents, with many calling on security agencies to address the rising cases of jungle justice in the state.