

Murder of housemaid: Court adjourns till Nov. 24 to rule on no-case submission

John Chikezie

Justice Oyindamola Ogala of an Ikeja High Court, Lagos, has adjourned till November 24 for ruling on the no-case submission filed by a couple, Fortune and Stephen Nwankwo, accused of killing their 19-year-old housemaid, Miss Joy Adole.

The couple, who denied the allegation before the court, claimed that the teenager committed suicide by hanging herself in her bedroom at their residence located at No. 18, Ogundola St., Bariga, Lagos.

The duo is currently standing trial on a four-count charge bordering on conspiracy, involuntary manslaughter and accessory after the fact to murder.

However, during the proceedings yesterday, State prosecutor, Mr. Yusuf Sule responded to the no-case submission filed by the deceased employers - Fortune and Stephen Nwankwo.

According to the prosecution, the circumstantial evidence presented to the court by the prosecution will prove that the defendants killed the deceased.

Sule said: "The deceased stays with the defendants and the two defendants are the elders in the house. The medical report did not state that the deceased died from being hung from the ceiling. It stated that because the body had been embalmed, a cause of death was not certain. However, the same medical report said that she did not die of suicide."



Gavel

The prosecutor noted that the Supreme Court has decided that in instances where medical reports have not been provided, a cause of death can be proved from circumstantial evidence. He said that the concern of the court should be whether there are questions that need answers regarding the death of the deceased.

Sule further stated: "Who were the last people to see the deceased? We urge the court to discountenance the no-case submission of the defendants and ask them to open their defence. The picture tendered as evidence shows that her legs were on the ground meaning that she couldn't have committed suicide and still be on the ground. The medical report also states there were no injuries on her neck to prove that she committed suicide. All these things need answers which they have not provided."

Earlier, the defence counsel, Prof

Paul Ananaba (SAN) while addressing the court, said that the Directorate of Public Prosecution's advice in the case stated that no case of murder had been established.

Ananaba accused the state of presenting hearsay evi-

dence in their case against the couple. He added: "The state went ahead and brought charges of manslaughter. The prosecution kept filling gaps in their evidence."

Drama as corps from BUTH mo

Musa Pam,
JOS

The remains of David Atimbi Adi age 33, a native of Nyakala Igbak, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State has reportedly vanished from the mortuary of the Bingham University Teaching Hospital BUTH on Jos

Family members of the de-