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## Man beheads step-mother in Benue

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BY PETER DURU

MAKURDI—Obaganya community, a suburb in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, was thrown into deep mourning yesterday after a middle-aged man, Echeno Adakole, beheaded his 50-year-old step-mother, Titi Enokela, allegedly for ritual purpose.

Vanguard learned that the suspect allegedly ambushed the victim at a family farm settlement, hit her with a piece of wood and cut off her head. He thereafter wrapped it with the dead woman's cloth and put it in a

polyethylene bag.

According to the source, “family members noticed that the woman had not returned from the farm and it was getting dark. Her children and other family members went looking for her; they found her headless body tucked away in a corner of the family farm.

“They all raced back home wailing and crying for help, only to discover the severed head of the woman with her step-son, who was acting strange and making moves to flee from home.”

The source said the suspect was held by a mob, who attempted to lynch him but for the quick intervention of police, who took him away.

“As a result of tension in the community, the Police Area Command hurriedly moved the suspect out of the area to the State Command Headquarters in Makurdi,” he added.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent Moses Yamu, confirmed the story, saying the command was still investigating the matter.

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