

Murder of housemaid: Court discharges, acquits Kano housewife

By Bashir Bello

KANO— A Kano Chief Magistrate's Court presided over by Ibrahim Khalil, yesterday, discharged and acquitted a 30-year-old housewife, Fatima Hamza, alleged to have murdered her housemaid, Khadija Isyaku, 22, in Sharada Quarters, Kano.

Chief Magistrate Khalil discharged the defendant after terminating the First Information Report (FIR) based on legal advice by the Ministry of Justice, which found her not guilty of the offence.

Khalil said: "Following the legal advice by the Department of Public Prosecutions, DPP, dated February 22, I hereby terminate the FIR and discharge the defendant."

Earlier, at the resumed hearing of the case, yesterday, the prosecution counsel, M. Ahmad presented legal advice by the Department of Public Prosecutions, DPP, to the court, according to sections 376 (6) and 299 (3) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law(ACJL) 2019 to terminate the FIR.

Ahmad urged the court to terminate and discharge the defendant according to sections 259(3) 376(3) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law(ACJL).

Ahmad said: "There is no single evidence that shows the defendant committed the offence.

"The legal advice should also be forwarded to the State Police Command and make a proper investigation on the case, invite those involved, if found guilty they should be charged to court."

Counsel to the defendant, Ibrahim Chedi, did not object to the legal advice.

It would be recalled that Fatima was arraigned in court on a count charge of culpable homicide sometime on January 22, for beating up her housemaid, Khadija, to a pulp before she was rushed to Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital where she was confirmed dead by a medical doctor.