



Varsity student clubs stepmother to death in Katsina

By Ogalah Ibrahim

A 300 Level student of the Federal University Dutsinma, Katsina State reportedly clubbed his stepmother to death and broke his father's leg and arm with a pestle.

It was gathered that the 24 years old student, Najeeb Umar Shehu, had on several occasions expressed his disdain for their stepmother, Hajiya Hasiya Galadima, a retired civil servant, whom he promised to kill.

Najeeb's mother, a Fulani woman from Daura and his father, Shehu Umar Balele, a Zonal Inspector of Education with the Katsina State Ministry of Education had reportedly parted ways for long.

Najeeb, who is known in the neighbourhood for taking all kinds of drugs and substances, according to reports, alleged that his stepmother was responsible for his parent's separation.

The eldest child of the family, Mustapha Umar, who also lives in the compound, said: "We have been having several issues with him (Najeeb). We took him to the police several times. Whenever we wanted to take action against him, our Dad would refuse because he is the last born and he wanted him to study."

"Najeeb has told our stepmother several times that he doesn't like her, vowing that he was going to kill her one day. We took the report to the Police but no serious action was taken against him. Unfortunately, he smokes and takes all kinds of drugs."

"So on Thursday, when I was not around, My sister came around from her husband's house. She used to come

every Thursday, to keep our stepmother company.

"Immediately my sister entered the house, Najeeb closed the entrance gate. He then went to our Dad's sitting room and tricked him to his bedroom where he locked him up to avoid him from obstructing his plans but that failed.

"He proceeded to the kitchen and took a pestle and returned to the sitting room where our stepmother was seated with two of her maids and her daughter and closed the door leading to the sitting room.

"Then he said to her: 'Remember that I promised to kill you one day.' Without wasting time, he hit her with the pestle twice on the head and she fell to the ground and fainted.

"My sister quickly held him, and they started struggling. God was so kind, she was able to push him down, unlock the sitting room door and ran out. He got

up immediately and chased her.

"Our dad heard the noise, rushed out and saw him holding the pestle. While trying to protect his daughter, Najeeb knocked him down with the pestle and he also fainted, with his leg broken.

"God so kind, our sister was able to open the compound's gate and ran out to one of our neighbours' houses.

"Seeing that she ran away, Najeeb went back inside the sitting room, realising that our stepmother was still alive, he used the pestle to pound her until he was sure that she was lifeless, disfiguring her face in the process.

"Neighbours, who saw him, alerted the police, who arrested him around the government house area."

"Our father is currently being treated at the Orthopaedic Unit of the Katsina Teaching Hospital. While our stepmother has been buried according to Islamic rites."