Man remanded in custody for alleged sexual assault of minor

Date: 2024-11-14

Source: https://guardian.ng/news/man-remanded-in-custody-for-alleged-sexual-assault-of-minor/

A middle-aged man, Godwin Uzodinma, was yesterday brought before the Lagos Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court to face charges of sexual assault by penetration and defilement of an 11-year-old girl.  
  
The prosecution alleged that Uzodinma committed these offences between 2017 and 2019 at a residence in Ikeja. He was accused of having unlawful sexual intercourse with the child, including penetration through her anus. Uzodinma pleaded not guilty to the charges.  
  
Uzodinma’s counsel applied for bail, citing his client’s health and offering assurances that he would not abscond. However, the prosecution vehemently opposed bail, highlighting the gravity of the offences and expressing concerns that Uzodinma, who holds an international passport, poses a flight risk.  
  
Justice Rahman Oshodi acknowledged the seriousness of the allegations and the need to ensure the defendant’s attendance at trial. He carefully considered arguments from both the defence and prosecution, including Uzodinma’s previous failure to appear in court on September 13, 2024.  
  
Ultimately, Justice Oshodi granted bail in the sum of N80 million with two sureties. He imposed strict conditions, including surrendering Uzodinma’s passport to the court and verifying the sureties’ addresses and businesses. The case was adjourned to February 19, 2025 for trial.