

June 21, 2026 by [Sanni Onogu, Abuja](#)

Dickson mourns aide killed in Abuja road crash



National Leader of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) and Senator representing Bayelsa West, **Senator Henry Seriake Dickson**, has been thrown into mourning following the death of one of his closest aides, Mr. Zamani Tanko, in a tragic road accident in Abuja.

Tanko, a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), died after sustaining severe injuries in an accident involving a truck conveying bamboos in the Apo area of the Federal Capital Territory.

According to accounts of the incident, the late aide, who was driving a Peugeot 406 car, collided with the truck, causing the bamboos being transported to pierce through the vehicle's windscreen and inflict fatal injuries to his face and major arteries.

Dickson disclosed that despite frantic efforts by surgeons and other medical personnel at the National Hospital, Abuja, Tanko could not be saved.

The former Bayelsa State governor announced the death in an emotional message posted on his Facebook page, describing the deceased as a loyal aide, trusted confidant and member of his family.

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"It is with deep sadness that I announce the sudden passing of my beloved departed aide DSP Zamani Tanko (RTD), who over the years has become a brother and member of my family, who served Nigeria loyally as a police officer for 35 years and was my personal staff handling sundry issues in addition to his security responsibilities," Dickson wrote.

Recounting the events leading to the tragedy, the senator said he received a distress call informing him that Tanko had been involved in a road accident in Abuja.

“Yesterday morning, I received a sudden call that he was involved in an accident having appeared to have collided with a truck in Abuja.

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“He became unconscious and was rushed to the hospital. My aides rushed to the scene and took him to the National Hospital. I rushed there myself after I was informed.

“We made arrangements for prompt medical treatments which were offered but unfortunately after the surgery by a team of surgeons assembled to bring him back to life, we received a call later that afternoon that he could not make it,” he said.

Dickson described the loss as devastating to him, his family and members of his staff.

“I, my entire family and members of my staff have been devastated since this call,” he said.

Paying tribute to the late Tanko, the senator commended his dedication to duty and loyalty over the years.

“On behalf of my family and members of my staff who are all mourning, we thank Zamani Tanko for his loyal, faithful and dedicated service to our country and his humble and loyal service to me in the past fifteen years, during which time he had become not only one of my most trusted aides but also a trusted family member.

“He was fondly called ‘Uncle Zamani’ by my family members who right now are devastated as a result of his passing.”

Dickson prayed for divine comfort for the deceased’s family and assured that efforts were underway to give him a befitting burial.