

# Wedding tragedy: 3 VP's staff perish in autocrash

**MUTIDEEN SALAWU**

**T**HREE members of staff of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan Thursday night perished in a fatal motor accident in Charanchi town, near Katsina, while on their way to Katsina state for today's wedding ceremony of daughter of President Musa Yar'Adua.

The deceased are Mr. Brain Ata, an assistant chief information officer, Mr. Emmanuel Babarinde, a cameraman and Mr. Thomas Adeyemi, a security officer attached to the Vice President's office.

The incident occurred when the bus they were traveling in veered

off its lane and somersaulted.

Confirming the death to newsmen yesterday, Katsina state commissioner of police, Mr. Dan Azumi Doma, said the other six officers in the bus sustained various degrees of injury and are now receiving treatment at the Katsina General Hospital, while the bodies of the deceased have been deposited at the Katsina General Hospital mortuary.

He explained that everything was being done to ensure that those involved in the accident were taken care of by the appropriate authority even as he expressed government's

condolence to the families of the deceased.

Similarly, the vice president has, through a statement by his Senior Special Assistant (Media and Publicity), Ima Niboro, expressed shock and sadness over the incident.

He has also condoled with the families of the deceased and prayed God to comfort them, and grant repose to the souls of the departed.

On the arrangement of the wedding ceremony involving the President's daughter, Nasifat and the Governor of Bauchi state, Mallam Isa Yuguda, the police

commissioner, who is the head of the security committee, said adequate security measures have been taken to forestall any hazard.

President Yar'Adua has since arrived Katsina to welcome many important personalities from various parts of the country, including state governors expected to add colour to the occasion that will be held at Musa Yar'Adua compound at about 2 p.m. today.

All hotels in the state have been booked for the guests, including the neighbouring Kano state.