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Ex-minister Fatima Ibrahim killed in car crash

News

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Former Minister of State for Power Hajiya Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim died in a road accident close to Makarfi on Kano-Zaria road around 2.30pm yesterday. She was 63 years old.

The ex-minister was said to be returning from a wedding in Kano. The cause of the accident was not known.

Abdullahi Mahuta, who witnessed the accident, said the driver and two children as well as another lady who were in the car sustained mild injuries and had to be rushed to a hospital at Makarfi.

He said the deceased was trapped under the car, which somersaulted, and the vehicle had to be lifted in order to remove her.

The former minister was taken to her Jabi road residence in Kaduna where the funeral prayer was offered after the Magrib prayer at 6.55pm . She has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

Born on April 16, 1947, in Birnin Kebbi, Hajiya Fatima attended Nasarawa Primary School and Government Girls College, Dala, Kano from 1951 to 65, before proceeding to Advanced Teachers College, Zaria (1966-69).

She was also at the University of Dakar from 1969-70. She also attended Ahmadu Bello University between 1970 and 73 and was among the first set of National Youth Service Corps members. She served in Lagos.

Hajiya Balaraba taught in Rimi College Kaduna from 1974-76. She was also at Government College Kaduna between 1979 and 1980, before transferring to Kaduna Polytechnic where she worked between 1980 and 83. From 1983 to 84, she was at the University of Sokoto and became the first woman commissioner in the old Sokoto State in 1984.

She also worked with the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation, where she rose to become an executive director. The deceased was appointed minister of state for power in 2007.

Hajiya Balaraba is survived by her husband, Alhaji Muhammad Ibrahim, former Director General of NTA and district head of Kanya Babba in Jigawa State, her aged mother and children.

Among the dignitaries that attended the funeral prayer were General Muhammadu Buhari, Ambassador Aminu Wali, General Salihu Ibrahim, former Chief of Army Staff as well as former governors of Kaduna state retired Cols Lawal Jafaru Isa, Hameed Ali and Abubakar Dangiwa Umar who is the deceased's younger brother.

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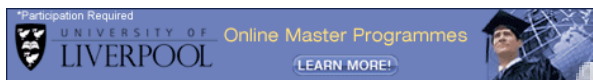
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