

How burst tyre almost killed Kogi gov, Wada

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KOGI State Governor, Idris Wada, narrowly escaped death on Friday as a result of burst tyre in the car he was travelling in burst.

Aide De Camp (ADC) to the Governor, Mr. Idris Mohammed, was not that lucky as he died on the spot.

Two other people were reported injured in the accident which occurred at Emi Woro Village along the Lokoja-Ajaokuta Road about 12 kilometres to Lokoja, the state capital.

Mohammed was an Assistant Superintendent of police attached to the governor since January 27, 2012.

The accident was said to have occurred when the governor was returning from the annual Igala Education Summit at the Kogi State University Anyagba, in the eastern senatorial district of the state.

It was gathered that the

front tyre of the vehicle the governor was traveling in suddenly burst and the vehicle somersaulted severally.

There was apprehension in Kogi and beyond on Friday over the health of Wada who was brought in an ambulance to the State Specialist Hospital, Lokoja.

Several medical personnel were immediately drafted to attend to him as government officials, journalists and other sympathizers besieged the hospital.

There was heavy security presence at the hospital when *Saturday Independent* arrived there.

A statement signed by Kogi State Commissioner for Information, Altai Abaci Bologi, said Wada was in a stable condition.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) also described his condition as stable.

In a telephone interview with *Saturday Independent*, Deputy Public Education Officer of the FRSC, Bisi Kazeem, confirmed that the

crash was caused by a burst tyre, which resulted in the somersault of the vehicle the governor was travelling in.

All Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) nationwide are expected to pray for Wada's speedy recovery today.

The directive was handed down by National Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Olisa Metuh, who expressed deep shock on behalf of the party at the news of the accident.

He noted that the news of Wada's involvement in an auto crash was worrisome considering the fact that Danbaba Suntai of Taraba, another governor elected on the platform of the party is still battling for life in a German hospital after surviving a plane crash.

Just two weeks ago, then governor of Kaduna, Patrick Yakowa, died in a helicopter crash in Bayelsa State after attending the burial of the father of presidential aide, Orono Douglas.

"Our great Party is yet to recover from a rude shock arising from a recent similar

incident. We therefore wish to direct all our members to observe compulsory minutes of prayers for the speedy recovery of Governor Wada and to spare the party from further painful incidents."

The PDP also prayed for the repose of the soul of the ADC to Wada who died in the accident and asked God to comfort those he left behind.

Two other governors elected on the platform of the party, Sullivan Chime of Enugu and Liyel Imoke of Cross River, are also out of the country over health matters.

Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Richard Elesho, while responding to questions from newsmen in Abuja, Friday, through the telephone dispelled the rumours making the rounds that the governor was dead.

He said: "I am very happy to announce to you that the governor is not dead. He is not dead at all. I don't want to tell you where he is. The governor is in a very stable and healthy condition. It is

unfortunate that we lost the ADC in the auto crash.

"I have also heard people saying the driver died. No, it is not true. There are just three people in the car, the Governor, the ADC and the driver. The ADC died on the spot but the governor and driver are in a stable condition.

"The governor is alive hale and hearty but I don't have to disclose the exact location of the governor to you. He had a first treatment at the Specialist Hospital, Lokoja. After we left the Specialist Hospital, we left for Government House. But I don't have to tell you his exact location at the moment."

After close to four hours of waiting at the National Hospital Abuja, journalists made inquiry through telephone, and sources close to the Government House in Kogi, confirmed to journalists that the governor may not be taken to the National Hospital Abuja, but that he may be flown to abroad for medical treatment.

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