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## Delta Police spokesman dies in auto crash

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By **Felix Igbekoyi** /Asaba

**Spokesman** of the Delta State Police Command, Lucky Uyabeme, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), has died in an auto crash.

Uyabeme died on Sunday evening in an accident involving his personal Toyota Highlander jeep at the Ogwashi-Uku axis of the Asaba-Ughelli Expressway.

He was said to be returning from Kwale where he had attended a burial ceremony when the accident occurred.

The late Uyabeme was travelling in company of two persons named as Ozobume Innocent and Mrs. Philomena Atuya.

The two victims who survived the crash were said to be responding to treatment at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba where the corpse of the deceased image maker was also deposited.

Sources said the vehicle veered-off the road and somersaulted several times, throwing out the occupants, caught fire immediately and burnt completely.

Although the Commissioner for Police, Ikechukwu Aduba, was not available on Monday as he was said to be away to Benin City for official engagement, a top officer of the command described the incident as unfortunate.

A release announcing the death which was made available to newsmen in Asaba was signed by the Command's Acting PPRO, Charles Muka, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP)

According to the release, "The highlander jeep somersaulted severally, threw out the occupants, caught fire and burnt completely. His remains have been deposited at the FMC Asaba Morgue while the other victims are responding to treatment at the same hospital.

"The late PPRO will be remembered for his humility, loyalty, gentle disposition, diligence and dedication to duty, please," the release added.

"It is a sad loss. The CP was personally devastated. It was unbelievable that Lucky was gone until I personally saw the corpse at the morgue. The incident is shocking and we are simply short of words," another officer volunteered.

"Lucky was always with the CP everywhere he went. He was with him at the nine lessons and carols organised by Delta Broadcasting Service (DBS) in Asaba, he accompanied him to Ughelli, then to Jesse and then back to Asaba before he went home for the burial. So, I think it is a personal loss to the CP," he added.

Uyabeme took over the position last year.

One of the highlights of his short period as the Police spokesman was in early November when he was enmeshed in a controversy over the attempted assassination of the Delta State House of Assembly Speaker, Victor Ochei.

Uyabeme had asserted that there was no assassination attempt on the life of the Ochei, while the Speaker insisted that his political enemies were bent on ending his life.

"Politicians are liars. What happened was never a bomb explosion but a traditional canon that was carelessly handled by the operator resulting in an explosion", Uyabeme had said.

His last response to distress call was that of the 80-year-old retired Army Major, Azum Asoya, and his 55-year-old wife, Elizabeth, who were kidnapped for 27 days but set free at the weekend with amputated fingers.

The PPRO also played a major role when the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, presented his scorecard to Nigerians in Asaba.

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Lucky Uyabeme