

# Tragedy as groom, friends die in auto crash one hour to wedding



A supposed day of joy turned tragic in Toro Local Government Area of **Bauchi State** yesterday as a police officer and intending groom, SP Mustapha Garba Gumau, lost his life in an auto crash less than an hour before his wedding.

Our correspondent gathered that the late officer, who was the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Gamawa Division, was on his way from Gumau to Magaman-Gumau for his wedding fatiha slated for 10 am but died around 9 am when the vehicle conveying him and his friends crashed.

The accident occurred at Bargan Tsamiya, a village along the route, as the Mercedes Benz car they were travelling in veered off the road and collided with an oncoming Opel Vectra.

The crash claimed the lives of the groom and two of his friends — Shuaibu Umar and Sulaiman Musa — on the spot, while others sustained varying degrees of injuries.

Confirming the incident in a statement, the spokesperson of the Bauchi State Police Command, CSP Mohammed Ahmed Wakil, described the development as devastating.

He said: "The Command is in mourning. SP Mustapha Garba was on his way to attend his own wedding when the unfortunate incident occurred.

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"He was in the company of three friends in a **Mercedes Benz**.

"At Bargan Tsamiya, the vehicle lost control, veered off its lane, and had a head-on collision with an Opel Vectra coming from the opposite direction."

Wakil added that the Commissioner of Police, CP Auwal Sani-Omolori, upon receiving the news, immediately directed the Divisional Police Officer of Toro Division to mobilise and evacuate the victims to Toro General Hospital.

"Sadly, a medical doctor at the hospital confirmed the groom and two others dead. Their bodies have been released to their families for burial," he said.

The Commissioner has since extended condolences to the families of the deceased, praying for divine strength to bear the loss.

The Nation reports that the tragic incident has plunged Gumau and Magaman-Gumau communities into mourning as residents who had gathered for the ceremony were left to grapple with shock and sorrow.