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4 police officers die in auto accident

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20.Oct.2014 | [DISQUS_COMMENTS](#) | Chris Agbambu - Abuja

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Indications emerged at the weekend that four police officers, who embarked on an investigative exercise to the South-West from Abuja without authorisation and knowledge of their superiors, have died in a road accident.

The officers, according to sources, embarked on the journey two weeks ago to Lagos to carry out the biddings of certain people who were alleged to have duped the complainants of a huge sum of money.

On their way, between Ondo and Oyo states, the vehicle they were travelling in was said to have had a burst tyre in top speed, resulting in the vehicle somersaulting several times and killing the officers.

It was gathered that, when news of the incident broke out, the Deputy Inspector General in charge Force Criminal Investigations Department, Mr Solomon Arase, immediately directed that henceforth, all criminal cases for investigation must receive approvals from his office before commencement.

The DIG, it was further gathered, had ordered the streamlining of all investigations between the Force CID, Special Anti-Robbery Squad, state police commands, as well as area commands in order to reinvigorate proper and serious investigation at all levels and prevent duplication.

A circular sent to all sections under his department, the DIG further directed that a copy of such approval must be presented at zonal, state and area commands, down to divisions to avoid indiscriminate arrest of suspects.

The DIG further directed the investigation teams to present authorised approval from his office before taking over any case from any police command across the country.

Also the DIG said, that no ban was placed on commissioners of police commands, Area commanders, DPO's, from investigating criminal cases without his authorization.

The circular stated that the directive is intended to restore professionalism in the conduct of operatives of the force CID and protect the force from abuse of police process by suspects who are in the habit of up turning facts against complainants at lower police commands and engaging investigators in the force CID to indiscriminately take over cases in the state commands with intent to facilitate miscarriage of justice.

The Directive added that the new order is also designed to ensure accountability and strengthen the case monitoring and management system being emplaced in the force CID.

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