

DSS officer guarding gov's wife dies in auto accident

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An operative of the Department of State Security, Bauchi Headquarters, was on Wednesday, reportedly killed in a motor accident along Vom-Jos Road in Plateau State.

The operative, Moses Benjamin, who was said to have been driving from Kaduna to Bauchi, died after he lost control and veered off the road into the bush around Vom, in the state.

Benjamin, until his death, was attached to the First Lady of Bauchi State, Hajiya Hadiza Abubakar, as a security detail.

A source close to the state's First Lady, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the deceased went to Kaduna to get his car when the unfortunate incident happened.

She said, "He left Bauchi for Kaduna to see his family because Her Excellency was not in the country. When he learnt that she was back to the country and was in Abuja, he immediately went to meet her there, leaving his car in Kaduna.

"When Her Excellency left Abuja for Bauchi, he (Benjamin) also left for Kaduna to pick his car and headed for Bauchi. The First Lady didn't even know he wasn't in the convoy. She thought he was with her in the convoy since he was in Abuja with her."

The source further said that "the most unfortunate thing is the fact that he bought the car he was driving barely two months ago and was not yet a good driver. He still had an "L" on the car."

She said that the First Lady was shocked to have heard of his death.

Efforts to get the spokesman for the DSS to confirm the incident were not successful as he did not answer calls put through to his mobile telephone or reply a text message sent to him.

A top security source of the DSS, who confirmed the story, said he didn't have the full details of the incident.

He said, "Yes, it is true that we lost one of our men but I don't have the full details of what happened. I wasn't at this morning's briefing because I just returned from Abuja."

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