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Lawyer dies 96 hours to daughter's wedding

Our Reporter February 14, 2014 No Comments »



From **AKIN ALOFETEKUN, Minna**

The Kadara and the Catholic communities in Minna, Niger State have been thrown into confusion and mourning over the death of a Minna-based lawyer, Patrick Barwa, in a ghastly motor accident, four days before the wedding of his first child.

The late Barwa, father of nine, according to Saratu, one of his daughters, would have given out his first child, Rita, in marriage tomorrow at St. Bernard Catholic Church, but the cruel hand of death had made it impossible, at least for now.

Saratu, in an interview with Daily Sun in Minna, disclosed that her father travelled to Suleja on Monday and was involved in an accident that led to his death around Paiko, some 22 kilometres to Minna on his way back at about 8pm.

"We did not get to know of his death until about 2am the following day and the news hit the family like a thunderbolt, leaving everybody devastated, especially my sister that is about to wed this Saturday," she said.

His wife, Gladys, as at the time of the visit of Daily Sun correspondent to the home of the Barwas in Sauka Kafuta area of Minna, was still in shock. Saratu, however, disclosed that the children were comforting her.

"We are trying to let her know that what has happened has happened. We are taking solace in the good legacy our father left behind, especially the legacy of education, hard work and honesty. He used to tell us to take our studies serious, stressing that it was the only thing he could give us. He was very good, nice and loving," she stated.

Rita, whose wedding would have taken place tomorrow if not for the sad incident, recalled how her schoolmates would not believe that he was her father, thinking that he was his elder brother due to their closeness, especially the way they shared jokes.

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"As his first child, we related like brother and sister, though he never failed to put his feet down when it comes to matters of discipline. That was my father, he was such a great disciplinarian," Rita said.

His colleagues in the legal profession acknowledged that the deceased indeed touched the lives of many that came in contact with him, saying he was a jolly good fellow.

Mr. Philip Olusola in his tribute described Barwa as a gentleman and a hardworking fellow.

Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Minna, Mr. Jonathan Taidi, who led a team of lawyers to the funeral service of the deceased at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Minna, said he would be greatly missed by his colleagues in the profession.

The late Barwa hailed from Ishau, near Paiko in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. He was 58 at the time of his death.

He was buried in his house at Sauka Kafuta in Minna yesterday.

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