

# AREWA Report

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From **Linus Oota, Lafia**

WIDOWED at age 28, the world seems to have come to an end for Patricia Ode Agune, a native of Akpachai ward in Gwer Local Government Area of Benue State, who watched her beloved husband die helplessly on the Lafia-Makurdi Road. It was two weeks after they consummated their traditional marriage rites on December 31, 2016. They were on a trip from Lafia, Nasarawa State, to Makurdi, the Benue State capital, to dispatch invitation cards their wedding scheduled for March 2017, at a parish of the Catholic Church in Lafia, when cruel fate cut short their joy and put them asunder.

For the young widow, a relationship that started in 2013 when she met her 30-year-old heartthrob, David Iorshase Agune, at the Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia, where both had enrolled for a pre-diploma course in the Department of Accountancy, blossomed seamlessly to matrimony, but ended abruptly without a warning in a most pathetic way.

On Friday, January 16, 2017, Patricia and her hubby boarded a C20 commuter bus at Lafia, en route Makurdi, consumed in high expecta-

## Cruel fate! Man dies in auto crash 2 weeks after wedding

tions of their church wedding, when the unexpected happened at about 1.31pm. While avoiding a deep gully on the road, the driver who was said to be on top speed, veered off the road to avert a head-on collision with a fuel tanker traveling in the opposite direction. He lost control and smashed some objects in the process, with the passengers flung out of the vehicle into the surrounding bush, killing eight persons including Agune on the spot.

Patricia and four other passengers survived the crash, but sustained minor injuries. She, however, said luck was not on her side as a better part of her life had gone forever, more so, as she is yet to fathom what she described as the unseen forces behind her husband's shocking

demise:

"My husband of just two weeks died and was buried the following week in his village at Giza, Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. It is now two weeks since he was buried and I am starting all over again.

"Though I still have age on my side, it is certainly not easy for me. My husband's parents want me to stay, but I am thinking there is no need. I have to learn to dream again, because he was my dream come true."

Patricia, who was engaged in an hair salon shop on Bukan Sidi Road, Lafia, after graduation, currently resides with one of her friends at the High Level district of Makurdi, bemoaning the ill-fate that had befallen her:

"My perspective about life has shifted. Accepting the word 'widow' means embracing all the lessons I have learnt after losing my husband. It means embracing a new way of living with others and celebrating their lives.

"I am right now confused and thinking on the next thing to do with my life. I am even likely to miss my menstrual period this month, which is an indication of pregnancy. After losing him, I felt like I had to completely rebuild my life.

"I am still discovering those dreams I have had without him. It feels like I have to learn to dream again. I miss his hug, his smell, and dreams of smooching him, only to wake up to its reality as a mere dream."