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Four die in Calabar boat accident

BY JETHRO IBILEKE
April 28, 2011 07:24AM

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Two months after [11 people lost their lives in a boat mishap near Calabar](#), the capital of Cross River State, another boat has capsized in the same river killing four of the passengers on board, including the boat operator.

The latest incident has further instilled fear over marine transportation across the river from Calabar to Creek Town, as boats capsize now and again with no survivors to tell the story of how it all happened.

In February, [11 people who boarded](#) a flying boat from Creek Town to Calabar on a business trip died midway at the Calabar lower water channel after running into a violent storm. They were mostly market women conveying agricultural produce for sale in Calabar.

The boat involved in the most recent accident left Calabar last Sunday afternoon loaded with some members of the Deliverance Bible Ministries for an Easter convention in Creek Town, in the Odukpani local government area. The boat, according to eyewitness accounts, capsized at a distance not far from the [Creek Town beach due to a turbulent wave that caused the speed boat to tumble](#), throwing all the passengers into sea.

No life jacket, no help

"The victims, who had no life-saving jacket on, could not swim and had to cave into the turbulent water current which drowned them. [All we heard was a loud explosion](#) which do occur in such situations. Before we could reach them for help, they had drowned," a fisherman who gave his name as Otu Eyo, said.

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He said efforts by him and other fishermen at the Creek Town beach to use a boat to rescue the victims were abortive as they had already drowned in the before help could reach them.

Their corpses later surfaced on the water and were taken away and deposited at a mortuary in a public hospital in Calabar for identification and collection by the bereaved family members.

A man who gave his name as Honesty said one of those who died in the boat mishap was a community leader from Efut Ibonda, a community in Creek Town, who was leading the others to the church convention at Creek Town.

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Posted by [Lawrence](#) on Apr 28 2011

Its really a pity, may their soul rest in the bossom of the lord amen.

Posted by [Akinrinde bukola](#) on Apr 28 2011

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Posted by [Silas Peter Buzo](#) on Apr 28 2011

I almost got myself down in that particular river when as a NYSC member our boat almost capsized on our way 2 Calabar from Creek Town on 1st June 2007. My condolence to the families of those who lost their lives.

Posted by [oyeyemi ganiu](#) on Apr 28 2011

it does not make sense for one going accross that very big river without using life jacket, had it been they used life jacket they wouldnt have drunk before those fishermen reached their, may there perfect soul rest in peace. Pls make use of life jacket

Posted by [Precious T](#) on Apr 30 2011

My condolence al d families nd oda survivous. Pls, is it not better for d marin transporters 2 starte d use of Life Vest, or flotèr as its also cald

Posted by [michael](#) on May 02 2011

I am from Odukpani local government, i reside in London now. I remember my first trip to creektown some years back. From Calabar to creektown i was so nervous i could not speak during the journey same thing applied when i was going back to calabar. When we got to calabar i vowed never to use that route again. How can those chaps ferry people across without providing their passengers with life jackets. For those who lost their lives, may their soul rest in peace. I promise to send loads of life jackets for use very soon.

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