

12 persons feared dead in boat mishap

AMAECHI OKONKWO

Port Harcourt

Twelve persons were feared dead when a major boat mishap occurred Sunday at the Abonema Wharf Port Harcourt in Rivers State.

The accident Business-day learnt was caused by over-loading.

Sources told our correspondent the incident occurred while the driver of the boat was making a u-turn back to the jetty possibly to drop off some of the passengers.

They said the passengers were coming from a chieftaincy installation ceremony. A source at the Police headquarters said five corpses had been recovered.

There were still conflicting accounts on the number of casualties as at press time.

While some claimed eight deaths other said there were twelve casualties.

Meanwhile, a search party made up of divers had been set up to comb the sea for more bodies.

According to an eye witness account, "the passengers were actually coming from a chieftaincy ceremony.

They saw that the boat was over loaded, and the driver tried to go back to the jetty to reduce the passengers when the accident occurred. We have not confirmed the numbers. But some are saying it is between eight and twelve"