

12 feared dead in boat mishap

LUKKEY ABAWURU

NO fewer than 12 persons were again feared drowned in Lagos, yesterday, in a boat mishap at Illagbe, a riverine community in the state. The latest incident came barely five days after five persons also drowned at Takwabay river in the state.

Saturday Champion however, learnt that six occupants of the 18 seater passenger boat were rescued by Marine police who quickly responded to a distress call.

An eyewitness said the boat loaded at Ilagbe village and was heading to Apapa when the incident occurred mid way into the river.

According to our source, who wishes to remain anonymous, the boat capsized following what he described as stormy waves in the sea.

He said that the occupants of the boat included petty traders

and farmers from the village who were going to Apapa to purchase few undisclosed items.

Although our source could not identify the occupants, our correspondent gathered that the drowned victims were middle aged women between the ages of 30 and 50.

Confirming the incident, police spokesman, Mr. Olubode Ojajini said "I am aware that such incident occurred, we rescued six persons and are still looking for other 12 occupants of the boat, we are still searching and praying that we rescue more," he said.

Ojajini said the boat in which about 12 of the victims were travelling, developed engine fault at the high sea resulting to the incident.

According to him, the identities of those drowned as well as those rescued were not yet ascertained as at press time.