

# 3 die in Lagos boat mishap

Mansur Oladunjoye

**N**O fewer than three fish traders were reported dead while eight others are now on danger list in a private hospital in Amuwo-Odofin local government of Lagos state when a boat in which they were traveling capsized.

The accident which occurred last Friday happened at about 5:30 am when the fish traders who boarded the ferry boat from Sagbokoji en-route Igboalejo to Liverpool in Apapa lost their lives when their boat hit a wrecked ship on the high sea.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the eight injured passengers are now recuperating in Dr. Ajen Private Hospital at Sagbokoji where they were rushed to by sympathisers after first aid treatment for better medical attention.

Our correspondent was reliably told by Sagbokoji villagers that there had been several cases of accident due to ship wreck on the route, which has become a death

trap on a daily basis in the area.

Reacting to the incidence, the newly elected council chairman of Amuwo-Odofin, Hon. Ayodele Adewale who expressed regret over the recurring accident told our reporter that his administration would provide adequate safety in riverine areas.

According to him, "We are going to provide speed boats with life jackets to convey the people, mostly the market men and women

to reduce to the barest minimum the incessant ugly incident of ship mishap in the area."

He added that he has sent a condolence message to the families of the deceased, the Baales (village heads), chiefs and the entire people of Sagbokoji and Igboalejo, to identify with them on the irreparable loss, praying that such occurrence would not happen again in Amuwo Odofin and the entire State.

In his comment, an Action Congress (AC) leader in

Amuwo Odofin, Alhaji Olowo Shittu, remarked that the incident was unfortunate, more so coming at a time when the party has just clinched victory in the just-concluded local government election in Lagos, praying Allah's continued guidance and protection for all, saying, "Incident of such nature should not happen again in Amuwo Odofin and Lagos State again."

## Man jailed 3 years for rape

**A** 34-year-old man, Friday Ajayi, was on Tuesday convicted for three years without an option of fine, for raping a 13-year old student in Billiri, Gombe.

Police Prosecutor, Cpl. Friday Bitrus, had told the Court that on June 14, at about 10 p.m., the convict committed the offence.

He had told the court that the girl was sent on an errand

by her parents when the convict forcefully abducted her to a secluded part of the road and defiled her. He presented three witnesses to prove his case. He said the act was an offence under the Penal Code and applied for summary trial following the voluntary confession by the convict.

"If I had known of the severe penalty, I would not have done it," the convict said in his

plea. Delivering judgement, Magistrate Babayo Usama, sentenced him to three years imprisonment without option of fine, to serve as deterrent to others.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reports that when the convict realised that there was no option of fine, he broke down in tears, expressing regrets about his action.