

Bayelsa: 5 die in boat mishap

DENNIS NAKU, Yenagoa

At least five persons have died when a boat capsized on its way to Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The tragic incident occurred at 12 noon, when the boat carrying about 40 passengers coming from Okpoma in Brass Local Government ran into turbulent storm some nautical miles to Yenagoa.

Efforts of the local boat drivers

and deck-hands to avert the accident proved abortive.

Daily Champion learnt from dependable source that rescue team efforts to save the deceased persons proved abortive.

Our source that refused to disclose his identity also said goods worth thousands of naira were lost to the boat mishap.

A police source confirmed the incident.

Ex-senator, retired Perm Sec. escape drowning

A FORMER senator from Benue, Sen. Fred Orti, and a retired Permanent Secretary, Mrs J.I. Akure, last Sunday narrowly escaped drowning in River Katsina-Ala when their ferry capsized.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* learnt that the duo was being ferried from Buruku to Ugba on their way to Anyiin in Logo Local Government Area to attend Gov. Gabriel Suswam's 45th birthday thanksgiving.

NAN also learnt that they were rescued by young divers operating the ferry.

Two jeeps belonging to them, which were also in

the ferry, were submerged in the river.

The cars were still inside the river late on Sunday.

Sen. Orti represented Benue North Central District on PDP ticket between 2003 and 2007 while Akure retired from the Benue State Civil Service as a permanent secretary in the late 1980s.

The thanksgiving service, which held at NKST Church, Anyiin in Logo Local Government Area, was also attended by the Senate President David Mark, who came in a helicopter, and Sen. George Akume, the immediate past governor of Benue.