

4 die in Ebonyi boat mishap

36 others rescued

AUGUSTINE ANIOKE, Abakaliki

At least four persons, including two toddlers, were killed at the weekend following the capsizing of a passenger engine boat travelling from Oferekpe community in Ikwo South East Development of Ebonyi State to neighbouring Ovum-Obubara in Cross River State.

Thirty-six other passengers who were on board the boat, however, escaped death by the whiskers as they were rescued by fishermen fishing in the river.

They were said to be on their way to a burial in Ovum-Obubara community in neighbouring Cross River State when the boat collided with a big log of wood in the river forcing it to capsize.

But, Ebonyi State Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP, Sylvester Igbo, while confirming the incident to our correspondent, noted that the accident occurred when the boat carrying the passengers thudded a rock at night and capsized.

He said while four persons lost their lives as a result of the incident, 36 others who were rescued were taken to the hospital for treatment as the police had commenced further investigation to ascertain other details regarding the boat mishap.

An eyewitness, Mr. Chigbogu Nwite, how the incident occurred: "The accident happened at about 8pm as Mrs. Nwaka Monday, Mrs. Jennifer

Eworo; their kids including 36 other passengers boarded an engine boat to Cross River State to attend a burial. The only thing that divides us and Cross River State is the river".

According to him, the accident occurred when the boat collided with a log of wood and capsized causing Mrs. Nwaka Monday and Mrs. Jennifer Eworo including their kids who could not swim

to drown, while 36 other passengers including the captain of the boat, Mr. Oyom Agbor, were rescued.

Nwite, however, attributed the cause of the accident to the activities of marine spirits, arguing that the wounds on the faces of the deceased women and the foams gushing out of the mouth and noses of the dead children were clear indication of such occurrence.

It was gathered that the incident occurred along Oferekpe-Ovonum waterside as the victims were going for burial at Ovum-Obubara in Cross River State.

It was also learnt that the corpses of the deceased women were deposited at the Specialist Hospital in Abakaliki, while the two deceased children were buried beside the waterside.

Woman in dock for humiliating policeman

A woman, Omolara Solomon, 33, of Sango Area, Ilorin, Kwara State, has been dragged before an Ilorin Magistrates' Court for allegedly humiliating a policeman on duty.

The woman was alleged to have assaulted one Corporal Oluyede Tolani, when he was investigating

a case of disturbance of public peace levelled against her and three others.

The accused, however, alleged that the Police officer took sides with the other party after collecting bribe from them.

The Prosecutor, Sergeant Zaccacheus Folorunsho, told

the court that investigation was ongoing.

Magistrate Mariam Baraje, however, released the accused on bail in the sum of N50,000.

She was also directed to produce two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case to February 11 for mention.

Court remands man for stealing

Discharges another charged with constituting public nuisance

AN Abuja Senior Magistrates' Court has ordered the remand of one Ibrahim Harima, 24, of Maitama, Abuja in police custody until February 7.

The Magistrate, Mrs Binta Dogonyaro, gave the ruling, following the prosecutor's appeal for some days to be able to recover the stolen items.

The Prosecutor, Mr. Monday Akor, had told the court that the case was reported by one Mr. James Scollard of Exa Estate, Maitama, Abuja, on January 26.

Akor said in December

2012, Harima, who worked as a cleaner at Scollard's house, stole a necklace, earrings and two rings as well as two digital cameras, valued at about 10,000 dollars.

The prosecutor said one of the digital cameras was recovered from Harima during investigation.

He added the offence contravened the provisions of section 289 of the Penal Code.

Harima pleaded guilty to the allegation and begged for mercy.

He said: "I want to go back to school to further my education but my father

refused to pay my school fees. I stole the items so I could sell and get money for my studies. I have already sold them and bought admission form for my school. I admit to the offence and now realise it was a great mistake, I am begging the court for mercy."

The prosecutor prayed the court for some time to enable the police recover the stolen items as they were already sold by Harima.

Dogonyaro said the court was not satisfied with the reasons given by the accused and convicted him for the offence of theft.