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**TENTH ANNIVERSARY
EDITION**

KANO BOAT MISHAP: 3 FOUND ALIVE 48 HOURS AFTER

Written by Hassan A Karofi, Kano

Thursday, 03 April 2008

Three people were mysteriously found alive by rescuers 48 hours after Monday's boat mishap in Watari dam in Bagwai local government area of Kano state in which nearly 40 persons died, according to Kano fire service officials.

But local rescuers at Badau village where all the victims came from did not however, agree with the fire services claim.

Last Tuesday, survivors told newsmen that of the over 40 people on board the ill-fated boat, only three survived while the remaining were feared dead.

The rescue of three more people alive by men of the fire service on Tuesday evening reduced the number of people feared dead in the Monday night accident to 36.

But in an interview with Daily Trust on telephone yesterday, the Personal Assistant to the Director, Fire Service Kano State, Malam Muhammed Mustapha, confirmed that the rescue team from the service was able to rescue three more people alive on Tuesday evening.

This, he said, brings to five the total number of those rescued.

Mustapha said the fire service with the rescue of the other three persons alive had finally completed all rescue operations and believed that there are no more bodies either alive or dead in the dam.

"We have officially confirmed that so far, 26 bodies were recovered while five survivors were also recovered with two of them on Tuesday, that is 48 hours after the accident," he said.

Meanwhile, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau on Tuesday led several senior government officials to the village for mass funeral prayers for the victims.

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