

General

2 feared
dead in
another

Lagos boat mishap


By Eugene Agha & Femi Akinola, Lagos | Publish Date: Feb 6 2016 11:24PM | Updated Date: Feb 6 2016 11:24PM

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DG NEMA, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Sidi

A commercial boat with 10 people onboard yesterday capsized in the Badagry area of Lagos. Eight persons were rescued alive while two others are feared dead. However, search is still on for them.

Those feared dead include the boat operator and a woman. The incident came barely seven days after a similar one occurred at Ibeshi in the Ikorodu area of the state.

Rescuers from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), the marine police and local divers are combing the waterways to see if they can find the two missing persons or their bodies. Public Relations Officer of NEMA in the South West Region, Ibrahim Farinloye, said the boat ran over a submerged log, causing it to capsize and throwing all ten persons overboard. The boat was said to be heading to Badagry.

Farinloye added that only four passengers on board the boat wore life jackets.

He said: "We have always advised commercial boat operators to ensure that all their passengers put on life jackets before leaving any jetty".

"The chairman of the jetty reported at the office of the marine police in Badagry. The boat took off from Idagba in Ojo with ten passengers. The operator dropped them at Iworo and picked eight new passengers to go back. It was on his way back that the boat capsized."

General Manager of LASEMA, Michael Akindele told our correspondent that the boat capsized around Iworo Ajido by Aradagun Bus stop, near Badagry.

He said the agency received a distressed call through the emergency call number of Lagos State at about 10.47am, adding that “the agency immediately activated necessary emergency responders.”