

10 die in boat mishap in Kebbi

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Birnin Kebbi

No fewer than 10 people are reported to have died after a canoe capsized in Jega Local Government Area of Kebbi State, Daily Trust has learnt.

Checks revealed that the canoe was carrying 11 people - the driver of the canoe and 10 passengers.

It was gathered that the passengers, all of them women, were said to be traveling from Madauci to Tungar Gehuru village for a wedding ceremony.

The women had left their homes for a nearby neighbouring village across the river in a happy mood to fraternize with relatives over a marriage event.

However, sadly, the event suddenly turned into mourning not only for the community but the entire state as most of the women perished in the canoe mishap.

The state's NEMA Chairman, Alhaji Sani Dododo said that the accident occurred as a result of flood which spread across the entire state resulting to huge turbulence as the rivers overflow their banks.

He said the driver of the canoe escaped with his life while two women also survived.

It was also gathered that four corpses had been recovered and that a search team had since swung into action for the remaining bodies.

Alhaji Sani Dododo said two women were rescued, while corpses of three women were recovered, and the body of one victim was being searched in the river.

However, the chairman of the council, Barrister Shehu Marshall, said "Four dead bodies were recovered and have since been buried according to Islamic rites, while a search team had also been launched for the remaining bodies."