

11 dead as boat capsizes again in Yola

From Amina Abdullahi, Yola

Tragedy struck on Monday in Gurin, a suburb of Fufore Local Government Area of Adamawa State, as a boat carrying 40 passengers capsized.

A local source said the victims, mostly women and children, were returning from farms and a naming ceremony when the wooden boat sank along with the passengers.

Mr Jangai Abdullahi, the

information officer of Fufore Local Government Area, who confirmed the tragedy to our correspondent through a telephone interview, said local divers had already recovered 11 bodies.

The Executive Secretary of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency, Dr Mohammed Suleiman, confirmed the incident, stating that it occurred in the afternoon and that rescue efforts were on.

The member representing

Fufore/Gurin constituency at the Adamawa State House of Assembly, Umar Bobbo Ismail, also confirmed the tragic incident.

Commenting on the accident, an analyst, Mal. Umar Maigida, said the "unfortunate incident serves as a reminder of the dangers that can arise from water transportation, especially in rural areas where safety measures are often lacking."

Recall that eight persons were reported dead following a

canoe mishap that occurred last Friday in Rugange, Yola South Local Government Area of the state.

The rescue operation, which was carried out by the police and residents, recovered eight persons.

Reports said the canoe was conveying about 23 passengers when it capsized on Friday at about 2pm.

The accident was said to have been caused by a turbulent windstorm that obstructed the

canoe and ultimately led to its capsizing.

Mahmud, a local diver who was among the rescuers, said the incident could have been prevented if the passengers had used life jackets and other necessary safety measures.

He called on the government and relevant authorities to ensure regular maintenance of waterways and provision of safety equipment such as life jackets to prevent future mishaps.