

2 feared dead in Rivers as vehicle plunges into river

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

A Hilux Van carrying two company workers including a foreign expatriate plunged into the Okulu River while fleeing from kidnappers along the Eleme section of the East-West Road in Rivers State on Monday night.

Our reporter learnt that the convoy was attacked by armed hoodlums suspected to be kidnappers, making the driver lose control of the vehicle, which skidded off the bridge into the river.

Eyewitnesses said the vehicle and its occupants were still trapped in the River on Tuesday afternoon, though frantic efforts are on to rescue them.

The Chairman of Eleme Local Government Area of the State, Hon. Brain Gokpa, mobilised a rescue team to the scene on Tuesday,

Gokpa, who confirmed the incident called on the operatives of the Nigerian Navy and rescue agencies to assist in retrieving the van and rescuing its occupants.

It was gathered that professional divers and marine police have also been deployed to the scene to boost the rescue efforts.

Similarly, the state Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adepoju visited the scene and lauded the Eleme LG Chairman for his prompt response to the incident and for mobilisation of security forces and rescue teams.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, stating that investigation is ongoing to arrest those behind the incident.