

## **Boat mishaps amid rising water as Niger death toll hits 32**

Several communities have witnessed boat mishaps this year, caused by rising water levels and poor safety practices along waterways.

The latest tragedy occurred in Niger State's Borgu Local Government Area, where a boat carrying about 90 passengers capsized at the Malale waterfront after hitting a submerged tree stump.

As of yesterday, the death toll had risen to 32, while 50 passengers were rescued.

The boat took off from Tugan Sule in Shagunu Ward, Borgu LGA, and was heading to Dugga for a condolence visit when it capsized after hitting a tree stump on Tuesday morning.

Musa Saidu Kedibe, Director of Disaster and Humanitarian Affairs in Borgu LGA, told our correspondent by phone that three more bodies were recovered, bringing the death toll to 32.

He added that search and rescue operations have now ended after the remaining missing victims were found.

The Director of Information and Special Duties at the Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Dr. Ibrahim Audu Hussaini, also confirmed the recovery of additional passengers.

Meanwhile, the Area Manager of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) for Niger/Kwara Area Office, Akapo Adeboye, attributed the tragedy to overloading.

He disclosed that NIWA has distributed 3,500 life jackets across various waterfronts in Niger State to reduce casualties in case of boat accidents.

In August, similar disasters were recorded in Sokoto State, where boats heading to Goronyo market capsized, leaving at least four people dead and 41 others rescued.

Also in July, a separate incident occurred in Shiroro, near Gumu village, Niger State, where a boat accident claimed at least 25 lives.