

New couple, others die in boat mishap

*From Willie Etim,
Yenagoa*

SIX persons including a newly married couple reportedly died in a boat mishap in Bayelsa State.

It was learnt that the incident occurred at about 8 p.m. at the weekend when a fibre boat conveying passengers from the Yenagoa waterside to Amassoma ran into a troubled cargo boat drifting in the river between the Ayama and the Ikibiri creeks.

The boat set sail from Yenagoa, the state capital, with passengers who had gone for the traditional marriage of the deceased couple.

Sources at the Yenagoa waterfront told *The Guardian* that the deceased groom had prevailed on some of the victims to stay back in Yenagoa and make the return trip the next day since it was already late, but they had refused.

The accident, according to some of the survivors, was caused by poor visibility, as it was already dark when the boat set sail.

Five of the bodies have been recovered and deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Yenagoa.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Iniobong Ibokette (DSP), who confirmed the incident, said the marine department of the Force was investigating the accident.