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THE GUARDIAN

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Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Four die in naval helicopter crash

From Madu Onuorah (Abuja), Kelvin Ebiri, RoseAnn Chikereuba (Port Harcourt), Wole Shadare and Joseph Okoghenun (Lagos)

A NIGERIAN Navy Augusta reconnaissance helicopter yesterday crashed into the Ogbodo-Isiokpo swamp in Ikwerre Local Council of Rivers State, near the Port Harcourt International Airport.

The helicopter crew, consisting of three pilots (officers) and a technician (rating) died in the crash. Already, the Navy has recovered their remains.

Director of Naval Information, Commodore David Nabaida, said the aircraft, with registration number NN06, crashed "during routine patrol of the Port Harcourt area in the Niger Delta."

Nabaida also stated that "already, investigations are under way to establish the cause of the unfortunate accident."

Spokesman, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Sam Adurogboye, confirmed the crash but declined to comment on it, saying: "It is a military aircraft and we cannot comment on it."

Sources told The Guardian that the helicopter took off from the naval base NNS Delta to investigate reports of illegal bunkering and a case of grounded ship but crashed on its way back to base.

A witness, Miss Yomare Orere, a student-teacher at Government Secondary School, Isiokpo near the crash site, said the incident occurred at about 1.35 p.m.

According to her, the helicopter hit a communications mast in the outskirts of the village near her school and plunged into the swamp, sinking immediately.

The crash sound attracted scores of villagers, including the secondary school pupils and their teachers, to the scene. They immediately started a search-and-rescue operation. A large number of sand miners in the area who were at work at the time of the crash also join the operation, using bare hands and cutlasses to rip the helicopter apart in order to recover the remains of the killed naval personnel.

When The Guardian visited the scene, the debris of the helicopter littered the swamp. Scores of villagers and officials of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Fire Service, Red Cross, the Police and the Joint Task Force also besieged the village.

Owing to the swampy nature of the area, the government agencies had difficulty accessing the scene.

However, they brought out the first dead body at about 3.55 p.m. and recovered the rest 10 minutes later.

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1 truc pour un ventre plat

Dissoudre 1 kg de graisse abdominale par semaine avec ce vieux truc bizarre.



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