

29 die in Kano boat mishap

From Terhemba Daka (Abuja),
Murtala Adewale and
Ahmad Muhammad (Kano)

THE death toll in Tuesday's boat mishap in Kano State has risen to 29, with victims including children and women travelling for a religious event.

The state's Director of Fire Service, Hassan Ahmed, who confirmed the update, disclosed that rescue team were still searching for 14 missing persons.

Earlier, the police spokesperson, DSP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, revealed that out of the 59 passengers, 29 died, eight were rescued alive, including four men and four women.

The Director, who spoke with *The Guardian* through the PRO of the organisation, Malam Saminu Abdullahi, said his men and some fishermen had joined in the operation to rescue the survivors.

ALSO Kano State government has set up a committee, headed by Commander of Naval Command, to investigate the ugly development.

Also, the Commissioner for Information, Mohammad Garba, while addressing journalists, yesterday, about

- It's state tragedy, says Ganduje
- Approves N6m, relief materials to victims' relatives
- Buhari expresses sadness over incident

the outcome of the emergency executive meeting, disclosed that government had approved the release of relief materials and N100,000 each to relatives of the affected victims of the accident.

MEANWHILE, President Muhammadu Buhari has expressed anguish over the tragic boat accident in

the state.

In a message to the government and people of Kano State to sympathise with them over the tragic incident, the President assured the state government of the support of all federal agencies in the state as rescue operation continues.

Kano State Governor,

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, described the incident as a state tragedy, saying that rescue operation is still ongoing.

"So far, based on the information we received, as at this morning of Wednesday, there were 20 deaths, seven in hospital and another eight people were found this morning and the rescue operation is still going on. We salute the courage and patriot posture of the rescue teams."



Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yabuku (left); receiving ThisNigeria Newspaper's Gold Award in Public Service from former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Solomon Arase, at the newspaper's Annual Lecture and award ceremony in Abuja...yesterday.