



National

# Pregnant lady, two-month-old, three others die in Rivers fire

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No fewer than five people have died following an outbreak of fire in the early hours of yesterday at the Bonny/Bille/Nembe Jetty in Port Harcourt City Local Council of Rivers State.

The Guardian gathered that the bodies of the victims, including a pregnant woman, a two-month-old baby, and three others were recovered after they were burnt beyond recognition in the fire that started at about 2:00a.m.

Sources said the fire destroyed over 60 wooden and fiber boats. They allegedly started when some persons attempted to offload illegally refined petroleum products known as Kpo-fire after transporting them across the water.

Although the fire has been put off, some residents who are still in mourning, lamented the recklessness of some boat riders.

An eyewitness, who spoke on the condition of anonymity said: “When we tell them not to load these products in transport boats they turn deaf ears, now see how people have lost their lives.”

Another eyewitness said: “We were about to enter the boat and on getting

closer, we heard a large sound ,boom, it went into flames and people, who were sleeping in the boat at about 3:00a.m. lost their lives.”

At press time, officials of the Inland Waterways Authority have arrived at the scene to monitor evacuation of victims and to ascertain the cause of the fire at the jetty.