

Boat accident, auto crash claim 11 lives in Ondo

From **Adewale Momoh, Akure**

IT was a black weekend in Ondo State as about 11 people lost their lives in boat mishap and auto crash, which occurred in different parts of the state.

2 Five seafood traders drowned and died when their boat capsized, while on transit on the waterways to transact business at a market in the coastal community of Ugbo-Nla in the Ilaje Local Council of the state.

The Guardian gathered that only the rescued trader out of those on the boat wore a life jacket, even after the incident.

According to the National President of Ondo State Fishermen Association of Nigeria, Benedict Orioye Gbayise-

more, the only survivor was putting on a life jacket, which he said made the effort to rescue him easy.

He said: "Their boat capsized, and five of the travelers died, while only one person was rescued due to the use of a life jacket."

While commiserating with the families and relatives of the deceased, Gbayisemore, who harped on the essence of life jackets for commuters on waterways, appealed to the government to enforce compliance across the coastal communities in the state.

"The lone survivor in the Ugbo Nla boat mishap had the foresight to wear a life jacket before setting out on the ill-fated trip. The life jacket was

vital to his survival, keeping him buoyant until rescuers arrived.

"This tragic event serves as a critical call to the government to enforce the mandatory use of life jackets, and by so doing, the government can prevent future tragedies and create a safer environment for all water commuters," he said.

3 **A**LSO, six people died in Alkaram-Akoko, in Akoko North West Local Council of the state, when an 18-passenger Jos-bound Toyota Hiace bus with registration number DKA 256 XY had a lone accident.

According to an eyewitness, the ill-fated bus, which was travelling at top speed, lost control after one of its tires burst.