



# One Life Lost In Bonny Boat Mishap

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One person reportedly died at the weekend when a speed boat conveying passengers from the Bonny Island to Port Harcourt capsized on the Bonny River in Rivers State.

Eyewitnesses said the boat capsized while making its way through the stormy

river very close to the IPCO Platform, a few metres from the Peterside axis of the island.

About 12 passengers aboard the boat were said to have been thrown into the turbulent river but were saved by fishermen and naval officers plying the river.

Although two male passengers were reported missing initially, chairman

of the Maritime Workers Union on the island, Mr Felix Allison, confirmed that only one person drowned and the union in collaboration with the fishermen were keeping vigil to recover the body from the river.

A Maritime Police officer told our correspondent that one of those feared to have drowned later show himself to the authorities.

Mr Allison however said besides the poor safety habit of passengers, the union does not have sufficient life jackets and other safety gadgets for passengers.

He also blamed some of the boat drivers for not being safety conscious while crossing the stormy river to Bonny, and called on the government to come to their aid by providing life jackets for boat owners.

According to him, the cost of acquiring life buoys was enormous and above the capability of some of the boat owners.

He advised passengers to wear life jackets, especially during most turbulent period on the river between June and October every year, adding that the union has set up a safety committee to monitor boats plying the area.