

Nine Die As Canoe Sinks In Kaduna River

By **Our Correspondents** - July 22, 2019



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Kaduna / Abakaliki – Nine persons were reportedly drowned in River Galma, around Tudun Iya in Wuciciri Ward of Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

A source told *Daily Independent* that the incident happened on Friday, July 5, about 12.00 noon when the people were returning from Hayin Sarkin Fito shortly after a heavy rainfall.

The source revealed that one of the survivors of the canoe mishap narrated that about 16 of them boarded the canoe, and that when it was about to reach the shore, it started sinking.

According to him, some of the passengers that could swim alongside the canoe paddler swam out, while the remaining nine drowned.

The village head of Tudun Iya, Alhaji Muhammadu Musa, is said to have described the incident as a very big tragedy which had never happened in the community as six of the deceased were about getting married.

He disclosed that five bodies were recovered on the said day, while three bodies were recovered at Kaku village the following day.

The last body was reportedly recovered at Garu Rubuchi, 5km away from the scene of the incident.

Daily Independent learnt that River Galma is linked to River Kaduna, en route River Gilmore in Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The bodies of the deceased are said to have been buried according to Islamic rites.

Against this backdrop, residents who use canoe to convey passengers, as a means of transportation, have been advised to always put safety first and avoid overloading passengers, as heavy rains continue in Kaduna.

Four Feared Dead In Ebonyi Auto Crash

In another development, no fewer than four persons were feared killed at the weekend in a ghastly motor accident in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital.

The accident which occurred on Enugu-Abakaliki Expressway by popular G- Hostel Junction involved two trucks with number plates KL319YY and UGB743XA.

The truck with number plate KL319YY, according to eyewitness account, hit five persons and three of them were believed to have died at the scene.

According to the eyewitness, "This truck was coming from the lane of those coming into Abakaliki on high speed while the other truck came through G Hostel side. The one from G Hostel axis was entering, then the truck from the other lane which was on high speed, on noticing the truck with number plate UGB743XA tried to dodge, it then hit the men on the pavement and jumped onto this other lane.

"It nearly killed a man on another motorcycle on same lane but the bike man who noticed on time jumped off his bike into the drainage while the truck crushed the bike and the bag of melon on it.

"One of the motorcycles the truck hit while on speed fell under the other truck which was also carrying sand. One of the men on the bike was still alive, but at the time of the accident had his two legs and hands crushed.

"I doubt if he would survive it, though his heart was still pumping but he was motionless. Also a child of about 4 to 6 years was involved in the accident, he was unconscious while his father was suspected to have died in the same accident."

Daily Independent further gathered that about five motorcycles were crushed in the incident.

Eyewitnesses, however, commended the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) officials for responding quickly to the situation.

Also affected in the accident was the perimeter fence of Elymay Nigeria Limited along the expressway.

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