

Scores Feared Dead As Jetty Collapses In Rivers

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P/HARCOURT

At least 20 persons are feared dead following the collapse of a jetty at Isaka Community in Okrika Local Government Area of Rivers State. The incident caused panic in the area. The tragic event was said to have happened on

Saturday evening as passengers were struggling to get boat from the community back to Port Harcourt, the state capital.

It was learnt that there was a big burial programme which attracted many people to the area and that the population had caused a rush for boat.

More than 80 people had entered the jetty, causing

pressure on the old, rickety facility.

Giving an account of the incident, one Mr. Isaac Walter, a resident of the area who witnessed the incident, stated that many persons had not yet been found since the accident occurred.

He noted that local divers in the area had emptied into the river and that

many people had been rescued.

"Today, we had a burial programme at Isaka and a lot of people were in attendance. On our way back, people came to board vessel at the jetty.

"In the process, the jetty caved in and so many people fell into the river and they were not able to be rescued.

"Few of them were rescued easily. I was standing a bit away from the point that caved in.

"The jetty is an old jetty. It was during Lt. Col Dauda Musa Komo's period (as military administrator of the state) that they inaugurated that jetty. We have tried to get another jetty but we could not.

"The people came on it,

pressure was on the jetty, and then it caved in.

"The people on the jetty at that moment were more than 70. Local divers are still combing the area to find survivors though some were rescued.

"To be candid, I may not say exactly the number of people that have not been found, but they should be up to 20," he narrated.