

8 Die In Bayelsa Boat Accident

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Tragedy has struck in Bayelsa State following the death of eight persons in a boat accident.

The victims were said to include a pastor and a sick woman, who was being taken to a health centre.

It was gathered that the incident happened on Thursday evening between Ogboinbiri and Amassoma in the Southern Ijaw Local Government of the state.

The State Chairman of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), Ogoniba Ipigansi, who confirmed the incident, said it occurred at about 9pm on Thursday.

Ipigansi said the accident occurred as a result of the collision of two boats that

were travelling in opposite directions around the Ogboinbiri-Amassoma axis of the Southern Ijaw LGA.

According to him, the collision caused the boats to capsize and resulted in the death of eight out of the nine passengers in the boats.

He said that two of the eight corpses were found on Friday morning and search boats had been deployed to recover the remaining casualties.

The MWUN leader regretted that the unfortunate accident could have been avoided if the boats involved were carrying functional torchlights for the late-hour navigation.

He stated that henceforth any boat leaving at late hours for emergency reasons must first report to the union's unit heads.