

# 10 dead as boat capsizes in Oyo community

**T**EN persons died at the weekend when a boat they boarded capsized at Olori village, in Oyo—East local government area of Oyo State.

They drowned in Oba river, which passes through the village and has been a threat to the villagers, especially during the rainy season.

The accident was said to have occurred when the paddle used in controlling the canoe suddenly got broken.

As a result, the canoe lost control and headed towards a thick tree inside the river, after which it capsized.

All the passengers on board, including the local pilot got drowned.

From Bode Durojaiye, Oyo

A rescue team, comprising young men, immediately dived into the river to save the drowning passengers.

Five of the victims were said to have been rescued and rushed to a private hospital.

Meanwhile, the community has petitioned the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged embezzlement of N157million earmarked for the construction of a bridge across the river by the Adedayo Alao-Akala administration. The money was said to have been released by the Alao-Akala administration for the construction of a

‘  
Movement to and from the village is difficult due to non-availability of a bridge across the deep river. A canoe made of wooden is temporarily being used as alternative means of crossing  
’

bridge on the river which passes through the community.

Speaking with *The Nation*, the community head, Chief Teslim Adekunle, said for some time now, there had been disputes between Oyo and Osun state governments over the ownership of the village.

He said: “The development attracted Federal Government’s attention, through the National Boundary Commission in Abuja, which summoned a peace meeting with the then two state governments. The peace meeting resulted in boundary demarcation by the commission, which was in favour of the Oyo State government”.

He added: “Among the promises made by the Alao-

Akala administration were provision of infrastructure, such as schools, water and primary health care services. None of these were accomplished by the administration before it left office.

“Today, the community is left with no good school for pupils to attend, potable water to drink, and effective healthcare service.

“The sources of drinking water for the villagers are from the stream, and the river, called Oba, that passes through the village. The only school with about 200 pupils have no teachers to teach them. Movement to and from the village is difficult due to non-availability

of a bridge across the deep river, a canoe made of wood is temporarily being used as alternative means of crossing the river by the villagers. But visitors are afraid to board for fear of being capsized. Consequently, communication with other neighbouring communities like Ajagbe, Oniwasu, Kiyeseni, are restricted.”

Also speaking, another community leader, Alhaji Salaudeen Abduraheem, said: “This is a project that has to do with well being of all the villagers, so why are all those concerned treating us in this manner. We want EFCC to probe the failed project and bring culprits to justice.”