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BOAT WITH 166 ON BOARD CAPSIZES

Posted by: Nicholas Kalu, Calabar on March 20, 2013 in [News](#) [Leave a comment](#)

•Nine bodies recovered, says NEMA

A boat with about 166 passengers capsized last Friday, about 40 nautical miles off the coast of Cross River State, it was learnt yesterday.

Only two people have been rescued in efforts coordinated by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), it was gathered.

However, reporters were not allowed access to survivors, who were admitted into the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital yesterday.

It was gathered that the passengers were travelling in a giant-sized wooden boat, the MV SONNY, from Oron in Akwa Ibom State to Gabon when the boat capsized at Malabo, (Equatorial Guinea) waterways.

Sources at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital said about nine bodies were deposited in their mortuary, yesterday.

According to a marine transporter at the Calabar Inland Waterways, Ikechukwu Egwu, the boat was carrying about 168 passengers.

He said the passengers were mostly Igbo traders who were heading for Gabon and decided to use the wooden boat because it was cheap.

Spokesman of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Yushau Shuaibu, said in as sms last night.

"Nigerian rescuer have recovered nine bodies from a boat that capsized at 40 nautical miles off the Coast of Calabar.

"Two survivors have been taken to the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UTH).The destination of the boat is yet to be ascertained, though it was suspected to have originated from Congo. Rescue continues"

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