

Two die, 18 injured in boat mishap

• As inferno roasts man, 32

TWO persons were at the weekend confirmed dead, while 18 others sustained injuries following a boat mishap along Lagos waters.

The incident which occurred on Friday morning along the Ojo-Tin Can on the Lagos Island waterway was said to have been prompted by an accident involving a passenger boat and a dredging boat.

It was learnt that the operator of the passenger boat was reckless and could not see oncoming boats because instead of standing, he sat down.

"They could not see the other boat from his sitting position, and before they could point out the other boat, they were already on it" he added.

The *Nation* gathered that deceased were the dredger boat's operator and his assistant, just as it was learnt that the injured victims are currently being treated at an undisclosed hospital in Ojo.

The passenger boat was said to have ran into a stationary sand dredging boat around Coconut.

When the accident occurred, *The Nation* learnt that local divers immediately, made to rescue the deceased after which they were rushed to a hospital in Coconut where they were confirmed dead.

The divers also swiftly moved to rescue the other 18 passengers.

According to a source, some of those who could swim made their way to a

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By Precious Igbonwelundu

nearby island, while the local divers and fishermen who were around, helped in rescuing others.

In another development, a 32 year old man, was on Saturday consumed by an inferno that razed a residential building in the Lagos suburb.

The victim, whose name was not given, was said to be at 15, Arabic Crescent, Ojokoro in Ijaiye, a Lagos suburb.

Confirming the developments, Southwest spokesman of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Ibrahim Farinloye, said the deceased had been deposited in the morgue.

He stated that the fire service responded to seven other fire calls on Saturday, adding that about four others have been attended to at the time of filing this story.

Council chief seeks support

EXECUTIVE Secretary of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government

From Tayo Johnson,
Ibadan