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## Four workmen drown in Ekiti dam

Posted By: Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti on: August 26, 2016 In: News No Comments



•Emergency officials rescuing one of the victims of the boat mishap at Egbe Dam in Ekiti State...yesterday PHOTO: ODUNAYO OGUNMOLA

Four workmen on a World Bank assisted water scheme project at Egbe Dam in Egbe Ekiti, Gbonyin Local Government, Ekiti State, drowned Wednesday evening after their boat capsized.

Among the four who died was a son of a contractor on the project, whose father was one of the survivors.

The workmen from Third National Urban Water Sector Reform were said to have begun work at the site on Tuesday before the incident occurred on Wednesday.

The mishap, which three members of the team survived, threw the serene community into mourning.

Their boat was said to have capsized while they were sailing from one end of the dam to the other.

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Sources said the small boat, which could conveniently take four persons, was overloaded with seven.

According to sources, the four victims that died did not wear life jackets but the three, who wore, survived.

Their bodies were recovered by local fishermen mobilised to the scheme by Gbonyin Local Government Council Chairman Mrs. Sade Akinrinmola.

The council boss told reporters on telephone that he had contacted the monarch, Owa Egbe, Oba Ayodele Ige Olokesusi, on the incident.

Describing the incident as “unfortunate”, Mrs. Akinrinmola said the bodies had been deposited at the

General Hospital, Ode Ekiti, headquarters of the council.

She said: “We mobilised a rescue team and an ambulance and those wearing life jackets were rescued. The rescued people were the ones who told us others were in the water. Their bodies were later retrieved by local fishermen.

“We believe they (the victims) were there based on some proposals we had written on the dam and how it could be put to use, and we believe the World Bank had started work on the river based on the calls.”

Police spokesman Alberto Adeyemi confirmed the incident, which, he said, was still under investigation.

Adeyemi said: “They must have come from the federal ministry because dams are owned by the Federal Government. It is true that their boat capsized. Four of them died and three survived.”



The management of Third National Urban Water Sector Reform yesterday clarified that the four victims who drowned at Egbe Dam in Ekiti State were not World Bank officials as earlier reported.

The agency described the victims as “four workmen working as tops-surveyors on Egbe Dam,” describing their death as “unfortunate and a loss too many.”

In an online statement issued late yesterday by the agency's communication specialist, Nancy Otagbo, it named the deceased as Alaran Tirimisiyu, Abdulwaheed Alayande, David Malu and Albert.

The names of the survivors, according to the statement, are Charles Eninlaye, Bukky Ajet and Yahaya.

The statement reads: “The Third National Urban Water Sector Reform Project is a project funded by the World Bank with a target to achieve maximum reform in Ekiti State water sector.

“While we lament the sad loss, we wish to state that the consultant was awarded the assignment to carry out Bathymetry Survey of four dams in the state biz: Ureje, Egbe, Itapaji and Ero.

“The sad incident happened because some safety measures were not adhered to by the deceased: refusal to wear life jackets and those who survived wore life jackets provided by the company.

“It should be noted that neither World Bank official nor water corporation worker was involved. Ekiti State Government commiserates with the families of the departed and pray God to grant them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.”

Commissioner for Public Utilities, Deji Adesua, in another statement, also commiserated with the families of the deceased regretting that the quartet died when they government was striving to make potable water available to the citizenry.

Adesua explained that the consultants were engaged to carry out survey and data analysis of dams in the state in line with the developmental agenda of the state government.

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