



# Boat mishap claims three siblings in Anambra

...Two escape

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***By Emma Elekwa, Onitsha***

Three children of same parent have reportedly drowned at River Niger, Anambra state during a canoe mishap.

The deceased, children to one Mr Chukwuemeka of Urum-Etiti in Anam, Anambra-west local government area of the state, were said to be with two of their colleagues when the incident occurred.

The Nation gathered that the deceased, students of Community Secondary School, Atani, Ogbaru LGA, were on their way to home at Ochuche, a riverine community in the same Council area when they met their untimely death.

Public relations officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Anambra state command, Mr Edwin Okadigbo confirmed the incident.

He said the deceased were declared missing while peddling canoe on River Niger to their house, attributing it to river turbulence, following heavy downpour.

He added that two out of the five students that were in the canoe, managed to survive the capsizing.

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He said, "Recalled on 23/03/2020 at about 18:00hrs, following a distress call, NSCDC Ogbaru Divisional office was alerted that three students of Community secondary school, Atani capsized and were declared missing while peddling canoe on River Niger to their house.

"Preliminary Investigation revealed the three students on their way to Ochuche in Ogbaru LGA of Anambra state were children of one Mr Chukwuemeka of Urum-Etiti, Anam in Anambra West but residing at Ochuche.

"Cause of the incident was attributed to river turbulence, following the heavy downpour of March 23 2020

Efforts are being intensified at recovering the missing three. The State Commandant of NSCDC Comdt. David Bille has ordered for discreet investigation surrounding the incident," he disclosed.