

# Five drown, four missing in Niger boat accident

From Justina Asishana, Minna

**F**IVE boat passengers have drowned when their vessel capsized in the Farar-Doka area of Mariga local council of Niger State.

There were nine persons on board, *The Nation* learnt. Five bodies were recovered, while four passengers were missing, Director General of the state Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) Ibrahim Inga said.

The boat sank a few minutes after setting sail, it was learnt.

The passengers from Unguwan dan Daudu were headed for Bangi to attend a naming ceremony.

The council chair Idris Ibrahim confirmed the incident, describing it as unfortunate.

He advised water transporters to observe safety measures especially during the rainy season when the water level rises.

Inga blamed the accident on flooding.

"The incident happened on Farar Doka stream due to flooding," he said. "There were nine on the canoe; four were rescued, while five got missing but their bodies have been recovered and evacuated."