Two killed, several injured in boat inferno in Niger



Justina Asishana, Minna October 22, 2023



Two children were burnt and several others sustained various degrees of injuries when a boat heading to Danbo community in Kogi State from Katcha market in Niger State caught fire.

The Nation gathered that the incident which occurred at 6 pm on Friday was a result of a mechanical failure that led to the boat engine catching fire and inflaming a jerry can of petrol stored inside the boat.

The boat was said to be carrying 50 passengers who went to the Katcha market from the Danbo community, the other occupants of the boat had to jump inside the river to escape getting burnt. Several of the passengers were rescued alive by the local divers.

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The overseeing Director General of the Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Mallam Garba Salihu said that the body of one of the deceased had been recovered while the search is ongoing for the second body.

The Niger State Governor, Mohammed Umaru Bago lamented that the negative incidences around water transportation leading to loss of lives in riverine communities in the State were becoming too frequent calling on the relevant ministries, departments, and agencies to urgently do the needful and take proactive measures to halt the ugly trend.

Describing the incident as terrible and painful, the governor commiserated with the families of those who lost their loved ones in	
the tragic incident and prayed to God to repose the souls of the departed while also praying for quick recovery to those injured.	