

② Eight die, others rescued in Anambra boat accident

From Nwanosike Onu, Awka

TRAGEDY struck yesterday in Anambra State when a boat capsized on River Niger, killing eight persons, while many were rescued

The boat, The Nation gathered, left Kogi through River Niger, heading for Onitsha in Anambra State.

A video made available to The Nation by an Anambra West Local Government indigene showed that the victims were two women and three young boys.

However, the identities of the victims were unknown at press time.

The source said: "Early this morning, (Sunday), a boat capsized on River Niger.

"Some of the victims are from parts of Kogi State and Mmiata Anam in Anambra East Local Government."

Police spokesman Tochukwu Ikenga confirmed the accident. He said operatives received a distress call, rushed to the accident scene and rescued about 30 persons.

He said the situation was under control.

Ikenga said: "Our marine operatives, on getting distress call about the incident, responded swiftly.

"We rescued over 30 of the passengers and recovered five bodies in the depth of the sea and the capsized boat.

"Preliminary information showed that the boat was from Kogi State, conveying goods and passengers before the unfortunate incident occurred. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained, as investigation is ongoing."