

50 feared dead in boat mishap

NO less than 50 persons, including children, are feared to have died in a boat mishap in the Angiama axis of the Nun River in Southern-Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa.

Eyewitnesses said in Yenagoa that the wooden cargo boat took off from Swali waterfront in Yenagoa, heading for Korokorosei in the Southern-Ijaw Local Government Area when the incident occurred on Wednesday at about 2 p.m.

The immediate cause of the mishap could not be ascertained at the time of this report, but the witnesses said the boat, which sank on its own, might have been overloaded or had mechanical problem.

He said that the boat went under the river shortly after leaving the Angiama jetty, where it dropped some passengers.

As at the time of this report, rescue workers had recovered three bodies and were still battling to retrieve the remains of other trapped passengers.

When contacted, the Chairman of the Maritime Workers Union in the state, Mr Sylvanus Egele, who confirmed the incident, could not say the exact number of persons on board the vessel.

Egele said that local divers were on the scene of the incident to recover more bodies.

and advised maritime operators to be careful in their operations.

Atiku: Supreme court begins hearing on Monday

THE Supreme Court has fixed Monday for the hearing in the Atiku versus Obasanjo case.

The apex court is to review the decision of the Appeal Court which held that the seat of Atiku as vice president subsists.

The federal government appealed the judgement of the court delivered on February 20.

In the unanimous ruling by the Court of Appeal read by the court president, Justice Umar Abdullahi on behalf of the other judges, the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar's tenure subsists upto May 29, this year.

The Appeal Court held that the defection of the vice-president from Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on whose platform he contested and won election to Action Congress (AC) did not amount to constructively resigning from his current post because the constitution has been very

silent on it.

It said rights and privileges of the vice president should be restored to him.

However, the federal government has disagreed with the Court of Appeal's ruling on the grounds that national security is at stake should the president and vice president belong to different political parties at the same time.

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State Government confirmed it by presenting him with a letter conveying his appointment.

This appointment received a thunderous ovation from thousands of people who accompanied him to pay homage to the state governor at Government House. He pledged his readiness to emulate the good deeds of his late father and brother whom he described as great leaders as he would serve as a stabilizing force by ensuring peace and harmony between Muslims and adherent of other religions.