

# Boat mishap claims 5 lives in Bayelsa

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Yenagoa

TWO separate boat mishaps along the waterways of Nembe in Bayelsa State have claimed five lives including two brothers who were travelling to Nembe from Ogbia jetty for a burial ceremony of their friend's father.

The incident which occurred weekend has sent the families of the victims into mourning as National Life gathered that the

victims were warned not to embark on the journey since it was already late.

One of the survivors, Stanley Terry while narrating the incident to our correspondent said he and his friends left the Ogbia jetty about 6:30pm to Nembe in a 12-seater speed boat on arrival from Port-Harcourt, Rivers State capital where they all reside.

Terry explained that they were few minutes to their destination when an on-coming boat hit the side of the passenger boat they were in, following the vigilance of their own boat driver who tried to dodge the empty boat; although he could not completely avert the imminent danger.

The force of the crash made the boat to start sinking gradually as water crept in from its damaged parts, forcing all passengers on board and the driver to jump into the river.

"All of us jumped into the river and started swimming and after sometime, I heard one of the two brothers saying he was tired", Terry stated.

However, before help could come their way, the two brothers, Christopher and Jonah Logan, and the third victim identified as Mr. Loveday Fieberesima, who is the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) of Marcober Nigeria Limited got drowned.

Others managed to swim

ashore, while some co-travellers who saw the situation threw empty jerry cans to assist those who were trapped, resulting into less casualty figure.

The eye witness who blamed the driver of the other boat for using a one-way route stated that on seeing what he has caused, and after watching the drowning passengers for some time, sped off out of sight leaving them to their fate.

Confirming the incident, Chairman of the State chapter of the Maritime Workers Union, Sylvester Egele said the first incident that claimed three lives including a barrister identified as Christopher Logan, his younger brother, Jonah and one Mr. Loveday Fieberesima occurred around 8pm.

His words, "Yes I just came back from a National conference of the union. I was told of the incident. The five persons were in two different incidents, while the second occurred same day about 9pm around the Okodi axis of Ogbia local government area of Bayelsa State involving a boat carrying diesel".

The maritime chairman stated that the body of the barrister was recovered on Sunday, while that of his brother and Mr. Fieberesima were recovered Monday morning.

Egele said he has already called for a meeting of the union tomorrow to decipher the real causes of the hapless incident, even as he has continuously warned passengers against night travel.

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success was achieved in the immunization against child killer diseases.

The Deputy Governor also said the state has gone far in the implementation of policies for the well being of women and children in the state, adding that the state had procured 34 mobile ambulances and 11 equipped ones for some selected hospitals across the state.

Alhaji Sirajo Damari thanked the UNICEF Country Representative for condoling with the state governor and people of the state over the death of the Yandakan Katsina District Head of Dutsinma Alhaji Balan Goggo Mohammed Sada.

Earlier, the new UNICEF Country Representative, Dr. Sawomi Sakai said she was in Katsina as part of familiariza-

tion visits to states benefiting from the UNICEF activities.

She said she was impressed with the state developmental plans on healthcare, which would impact positively on the lives of citizenry.

According to her, the provision of free medical care to certain categories of patients, the free education system and the commissioning of Turai Yar'Adua Maternal and Children Hospital are commendable steps in boosting healthcare delivery.

She commended the participation of top government functionaries in the state for participation in health programmes of the UNICEF.

Dr. Sawomi Sakai expressed appreciation over the state budgetary discipline.

She then used the visit to condole the state governor over the death of Yandakan Katsina District Head of Dutsinma.