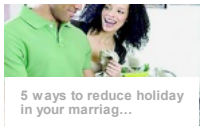


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30 picnickers feared dead in boat accident -7 killed in Tiv/Fulani clash

Written by Johnson Babajide - Makurdi | Saturday, 28 December 2013 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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NO fewer than 30 persons were feared dead in a boat accident which occurred at River Buruku in Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State.

According to a source, the passengers, who were being conveyed in a boat across River Buruku around 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, died when the boat capsized at the middle of the river.

It was gathered from Buruku that the victims of the boat tragedy were fun seekers who had gone for a picnic across the river and were returning to their homes.

The source revealed that the young man who was driving the boat had earlier complained that the boat was over-loaded, of which the victims refused to heed the warning even as they urged him to go ahead.

"Sadly, as they got to the middle of the river, the boat capsized, throwing all passengers on board into the river. About 30 persons were missing of which only six bodies had been recovered on Friday morning," the source said.

Rescue operation was still on at the time of filing this report, even as members of families of victims from both Buruku and Logo local government areas besieged the area wailing while others were making frantic efforts to recover the bodies of their families.

Also, in a clash which began on Christmas Eve, seven persons have been killed as a result of renewed hostilities between Fulani herdsmen and Tiv farmers in Agasha, Guma Local Government Area.

Saturday Tribune gathered that the corpses had been released by the police for burial while several armed policemen were also seen patrolling the troubled area.

At the time of filing this report, elders of Guma were said to be meeting at the Makurdi residence of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Chief Samuel Ortom, to fashion out the way forward and means of resolving the incessant Tiv/Fulani crises.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Daniel Ezeala, who confirmed that seven persons lost their lives in the Agasha clash, however, said the command was yet to be briefed on the Buruku boat tragedy.

Ezeala told Saturday Tribune that normalcy had been restored in Agasha, adding that security had

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been beefed up in the area as policemen had been deployed to maintain peace and order.

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