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10 die in Kogi boat mishap

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28.Aug.2014 | [DISQUS_COMMENTS](#) | Ayodele Adesanmi -Lokoja

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TEN passengers on board a 50-seater boat were feared dead early Wednesday morning, while unconfirmed number of people were still missing when the boat capsized.

The boat, on River Niger, capsized at Ebe village, close to Jamata village, in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Most of the passengers on board were market women, who were on their way to Lokoja market, which hold every five days and was scheduled to hold on Wednesday.

The boat, it was gathered, conveyed over 50 market women from Kakanda and Kupa villages, riverine communities, headed for Jamata, where they were to disembark to board a vehicle to the market in Lokoja, before it capsized.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the boat capsized as result of the strong waves from the struggle between the security patrol team boat and that conveying bunkerers.

The security patrol boat was said to be chasing a boat conveying drums of crude oil, which was sighted on the River Niger at about midnight on Tuesday, which forced the boat to redirect its route to River Gurara.

It was further learnt that a boat which left Lokoja for Budon community, which saw the accident, rescued some of its passengers alive, but many of them were still missing.

General Manager, Corporate Affairs of National Waterways Authority (NIWA), Mr Tayo Fadile, could not be reached, but an unsigned statement from his office confirmed the accident, saying details were still being awaited.

When contacted, the state chairman, Kogi State River Transport Association, Alhaji Bala Yusuf Yaro, said he could not confirm the number of casualties, as rescue operation was still on to get those missing, insisting that the operation could stretch over till Thursday.

The executive secretary of Kogi State Emergency Management Board, Alice Ogedengbe, confirmed the incident, but could not give details of the mishap.

She advised boat operators to always make life jacket available to passengers, saying that no life would have been lost if they were putting on life jackets.

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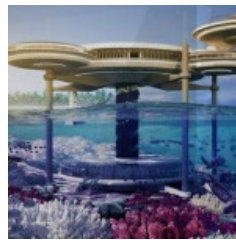
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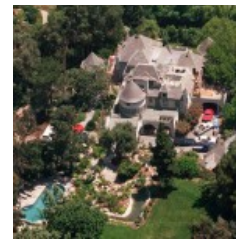
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