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18 people going for burial ceremony die in boat accident

JOHNSON BABAJIDE - MAKURDI

~~TRAGEDY STRUCK ON~~
Wednesday night when 18
people, who were travel-
ling for a burial ceremony,
drowned when the boat they
were travelling in capsized in
River Buruku in Benue State.

An eyewitness from the
area told the *Nigerian
Tribune* that the incident
occurred when people were
crossing the river from Bu-
ruku side to a community
in Logo Local Government
Area of the state.

The eyewitness, who did
not want his name in print,
said that the incident hap-
pened around 8:30 p.m
when the victims were going
to attend a burial ceremony
in Logo Local Government
Area.

He said rescuers were able
to recover 18 bodies, adding
that search was still on to re-
cover others.

The state Police Public Re-
lations Officer, DSP Moses
Yamu, confirmed the inci-
dent. He, however, said that
13 people died.

Yamu said that 18 motorcy-
cles that were also on board
the boat and that rescuers
were still searching for more
people.

Meanwhile, the state gov-
ernor, Samuel Ortom, has
sympathised with families of
victims of the accident.

Governor Ortom, who was
represented by the Secretary
to the State Government,
Professor Anthony Ijohor
(SAN), visited the scene of
the incident, accompanied
by the chairmen of Buruku
and Logo local government
areas, as well as some com-
missioners and special ad-
visers.

Ortom described the ac-
cident as unfortunate and
painful, stressing that a sim-
ilar incident which claimed
17 lives occurred at the same
river five years ago.

The governor called on
the Federal Government to
construct a bridge across the
Buruku axis of River Katsi-
na-Ala in order to prevent
the loss of more lives.

He, however, directed that
the bodies which had so far