

24 dead, several missing in Niger boat accident

TRAGEDY struck in Niger State on Sunday after a boat capsized in the Mokwa area of the state.

The exact number of people onboard the boat and the cause of the accident could not be confirmed

as of the time of filing in this report.

Speaking with *Channels Television* through a telephone call, chairman of Mokwa Local Government, Jibrim Muregi, confirmed the incident, saying rescue efforts were ongoing.

He confirmed that 21 dead

bodies had been recovered, adding that three community members of Gbajibo, Ekwa and Yankeiade were also affected.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Wasiu Abiodun confirmed the accident.

He, however, said available information at the police disposal suggests that 13 people lost their lives.

"Information received from Gbajibo area of Mokwa indicated that a wooden boat conveying some passengers on board from Gbajibo water side

heading to Tungan-Mango for farming activities capsized.

"On receiving the report, the DPO Mokwa division mobilised police teams, including marine police, to the scene, in collaboration with local divers and so far, 13 persons confirmed dead

as search and rescue operation is ongoing. Further development will be made public," he said.

The latest incident comes three months after a boat conveying families returning from a wedding sank in a river, killing over 100 people on board.