

Two children die as boat carrying 145 passengers capsizes in Niger

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TWO children have been confirmed dead, while two others sustained various degrees of injuries in a boat accident that occurred in the Katcha Local Government Area of Niger State.

The overseeing Director-General of Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Alhaji Salihu Garba, disclosed this in Minna, the state capital, on Saturday.

He said the incident occurred on Friday at about 6:00 p.m. when the boat engine caught fire due to a mechanical failure that ignited a gallon of petrol stored inside the boat.

He said that 145 passengers were in the boat, adding that they were from the Danbo community in Kogi State.

Garba disclosed that the passengers were on their way back from Katcha market when the incident occurred.

He said that the body of one of the deceased children had been recovered while the search for the second missing child was still ongoing.

The accident occurred barely one month after a similar situation occurred in Borgu Emirate, Niger North Senatorial District of the state when some passengers were on their way to a local market in the neighbouring Kebbi State.