

3 NIWA confirms eight dead in Anambra boat accident

THE National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) on Sunday confirmed eight persons dead and 38 others rescued in a boat mishap that occurred in Anambra State.

The General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Alhaji Jibril Darda'u, made the disclosure in a statement issued in Lokoja, Kogi State and made available to newsmen on Sunday.

Darda'u, according to the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, said the "sad and unfortunate incident occurred at UmumuAnam, in Anambra West Local Government Area between Thursday and Friday."

"The authority sincerely commiserates with the families and friends of the deceased and prayed to God to grant rest to their souls," he said.

He said preliminary reports indicated that the "wooden engine boat rammed a snag in the water channel and capsized with at least 50 passengers on board.

"From the records, eight persons were confirmed dead at the scene, while 38 others were rescued immediately.

"The sad incident involved a passenger boat travelling from Idah in Kogi State to Onitsha in Anambra State.

"Upon the receipt of the sad report, relevant personnel from the Marine Department were deployed for rescue, recovery and proper investigation.

"The recovery efforts are ongoing and the authority will provide detailed information to the public as soon as the field officers report back to the headquarters," Darda'u said.