

Police confirm death of 11 in Rivers boat accident

RIVERS State police command has confirmed the death of 11 passengers from a boat accident on the Andoni-Bonny coastal waters on Tuesday.

Eyewitness account stated that the accident occurred when two passenger-boats

collided along the route.

Spokesperson for the command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the accident in an interview with the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** in Port Harcourt on Wednesday.

She said 11 passengers from the commercial boat

died in the accident, debunking speculations that 20 people died.

"The accident occurred on January 9, at about 9:15a.m. when a local wooden boat powered by a single 25HP Yamaha engine carrying passengers sank.

"The boat conveyed the

passengers from Ukwa community in Ngo town in Andoni Local Government Area en route to Bonny Island when it sank while approaching Amariaria community in Finima town.

"Acting on the strength of the information we received, the officer in charge

of Marine, Ogarachi Chima, moved to the scene of the incident and discovered 11 passengers feared drowned," she said.

Iringe-Koko said the police had launched full investigation to ascertain the cause of the mishap.

Earlier, chairman of

Andoni Local Government Council, had said in a statement that 20 persons drowned in the accident.

According to him, the accident involved two Andoni/Bonny-bound boats that sank in the middle of the turbulent Andoni Sea.

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