

Six dead, three missing in another Sokoto boat mishap — SEMA

Olakunle Maruf August 24, 2025



A dawn boat mishap in Garin-Faji village of Sabon-Birni Local Government Area, Sokoto State, has claimed six lives, leaving three others still missing.

The incident, which occurred around 5:30 a.m. on Thursday, barely one week after a similar incident in Goronyo local government, involved a local passenger boat that capsized while conveying villagers across the river. Nineteen survivors were rescued following the accident.

According to a statement made available to newsmen by officials of the Sokoto State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) on Saturday evening, the team led a joint assessment mission to the affected community in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), and the Red Cross.

The team, headed by Alhaji Aliyu Shehu Kafin-Dangi, Head of NEMA Sokoto Operations Office, and Hon. Aminu Liman Bodinga, Special Adviser to Sokoto SEMA (represented by Mustapha Umar, Director of Relief and Rehabilitation), visited Garin-Faji to confirm casualties and commiserate with the victims' families.

Also part of the delegation was Engr. Muhammad Bello Bala of NIWA, who assured that relevant agencies would intensify efforts to improve safety on inland waterways.

Speaking after the visit, Alhaji Kafin-Dangi described the mishap as "a heartbreaking tragedy," adding that "search and rescue operations are still ongoing to locate the three missing persons."

He further disclosed that a joint report on the incident will soon be released by NEMA, SEMA, and NIWA to provide full details and recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences.

Meanwhile, community leaders expressed appreciation for the swift intervention of emergency agencies, while urging the government to provide life jackets and regulate local water transport to minimize accidents.