

# Council vice-chairman, leader drown in boat mishap

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**T**HE Nembe Local Government Vice Chairman, in Bayelsa State, Mr. Tekena Temple-Beregha and the Leader of the Legis-

lative Arm, simply identified as Gbenga, were feared drowned on Saturday in a boat mishap.

Temple-Beregha was a

former President of the Ijaw Youth Council, while the leader was the councillor representing Nembe Ward 8.

A former Acting President of the IYC, Mr. Nengi James, who is also a native of Nembe, in a telephone interview from the coastal community on Saturday afternoon, confirmed the tragedy.

James said the deceased were travelling to Nembe from Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, when the incident occurred around 1:30 am in Nembe territory.

The youth leader added that their corpses had been deposited at the morgue of Nembe General Hospital, with the shocked people mourning.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the Bayelsa State Command, Mr. Ibokette Iniobong, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, also confirmed the incident.

Iniobong, who described the incident as very unfortunate, said the solution to night journeys by boat was two-way, stressing that the boat drivers and the police must cooperate to put an end to it.

The mobile line of the Chairman of Nembe council, Mr. Walter Kurogbofa, was not available, when he was contacted for comments.

It would be recalled that the leadership of the Maritime Workers' Union of Nigeria, Bayelsa State chapter, just last week, warned boat drivers against travelling on the waterways beyond 7 pm, in view of the inherent danger.

The union also called on the state's House of Assembly to put in place legislation to prevent boat drivers from moving at night, in view of the frequent accidents or boats capsizing without rescue efforts.



*... Governor, Obong Victor Attah and Alhaji Saleh Hassan, ... for president, in Abuja ... on Saturday.*

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as very vibrant and robust and that the country's journalists had not failed the nation.

He admonished the NGE and other regulatory bodies in the media industry, to draw up workable ethics to guide the practice of the profession.

The governor added that his administration was doing its best to develop Bayelsa and put an end to poverty in the state, asking for the people's support.

In a paper delivered by the Legal, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Director of the sponsor of the dinner, the British American Tobacco Nigeria, Mrs. Flora Okereke, she said journalism contributed immensely to the struggle for Nigeria's independence.

Okereke stressed that the

Nigerian media had never deviated from the time-honoured commitment to the development of the country and that the new democracy so dearly cherished by Nigerians, was almost literally the sociological child of the Nigerian media.

She, however, noted that the battle was not yet over and that more than ever before, the Nigerian media had an ever-present responsibility to help nurture the current democratic project.

The President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Malam Baba Dantiye, had earlier admonished the media practitioners to abide by the ethics of the profession.

Dantiye also lauded that Bayelsa government for hosting the event and the tremendous support.