

How 13 Rev. King's followers drowned in Lagos canal

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A MORE gripping account of how 13 members of the Christian Praying Assembly, Ajao Estate, Isolo, Lagos drowned in a canal on Friday emerged on Saturday.

The wife of one of the survivors, who simply identified herself as Mrs. Wilson said the man that was paddling the canoe, Jimoh Aremu, quickly jumped into the canal when he could no longer

control it.

Quoting her husband, Wilson Akoma, she said as the man battled to swim to safety, all the passengers fell into the canal.

Only three of them were able to swim out of the muddy water, while a couple of other church members managed to rescue another passenger.

The CPA belongs to Rev. Emeka Ezeuko popularly known as Rev. King, who was sentenced to death by hanging on January 11, for

allegedly setting six members of the church ablaze.

Mrs Akoma, who was still visibly shocked by the tragedy, said the heavy downpour the night before had made the water turbulent but the 16 passengers, with majority of them from CPA vigil programme, counted on Jimoh Akeem's expertise to sail them through.

Calamity befell them when Aremu could not resist the storm and fell into the canal, leaving the boat to stray.

In the confusion that followed, one of the passengers stood on the side of the boat desiring to jump to the shore but the canoe capsized.

Wilson, Aremu and one of Rev. King's followers who rescued another CPA member swam to safety.

Residents of the area appealed to the State government to monitor the activities of the boatmen and ensure that they limit their operation to between 7 am and 7 pm.