

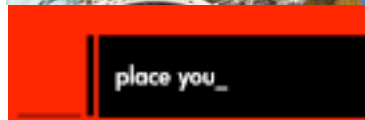
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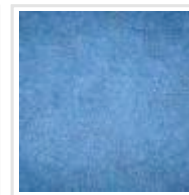
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'My children still missing in Lagos canoe tragedy'

October 30, 2012 by Kunle Falayi [4 Comments](#)

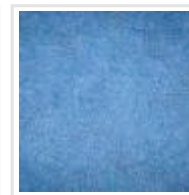


Three children of a 40-year-old man, Najeem Oseni, have yet to be found in the tragedy that occurred at Imude in Otto-Awori Local Council Area, Lagos State on Sunday.

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The children – Suleiman, Wasiu (males) and Risikat (female) – were among the 10 passengers that boarded the canoe from Idoluwo on their way to Ikotun in the LCDA.

Their father, Oseni, evoked sympathy as he bemoaned the fate that befell him when officials of the Lagos State Emergency Management Authority and naval men attached to it continued their recovery operations.

The grief-stricken father said, “My children were coming from Idoluwo where they went to celebrate Eid-el- Kabir with my family.

“Let someone tell me I am dreaming. How can I lose three children at a time? My children are better dead than missing.”


Oseni said amid sorrow that his children were going back to Imude where they lived.

Although he insisted that he would not leave the shore until his children were found, sympathisers persuaded him to leave the scene.


The residents of the community blamed the accident on the speed boat sailing through the waterways.

The General Manager of LASEMA, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyin recovered on Sunday evening.


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It was learnt that the body of a four-year-old boy was also recovered on Monday.

PUNCH Metro learnt that all the passengers in the canoe died when waves generated by a passing speedboat swayed the canoe making it to capsize.

The victims apparently did not wear life jackets.

Our correspondent learnt that the passengers boarded the canoe at Idoluwo-Ile and were heading for Ikotun.

Some eyewitnesses said the victims seemed to have gone for the Eid-el-Kabir celebration and were heading back to their base when the tragedy occurred.

Oke-Osanyintolu, whose men were on hand for the recovery operation on Sunday, said the fact that the passengers did not use life jackets made their survival impossible.

“LASEMA has warned many times in the past that people using canoes should make use of life jackets for their own safety. Most of the passengers of said.

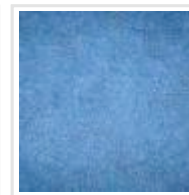
LASEMA and naval officials and other emergency first resp since Sunday evening for the recovery efforts.

On Monday, LASEMA and naval officials also resumed rec

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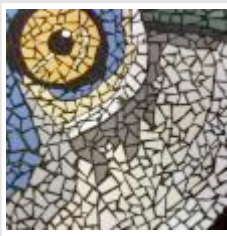
search resulted in the recovery of the body of a four-year-old boy.

It was learnt that the canoe was paddled by a 10-year-old boy whose identity has not been determined.

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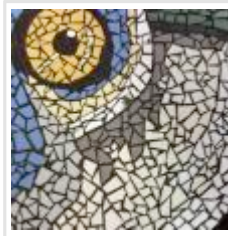
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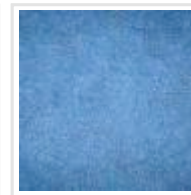
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• *Jeremiah Ade* October 30, 2012 at 2:09 am

How many elite children were in the speed boat? Poverty is a big crime in this nation, particularly in Lagos where they are only doing ego for show programmes. My sympathy to the families of the victims. We should start serious regulation of all aspects of life not only motorists and okadas but the water ways also.

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• *ijawboy* October 30, 2012 at 5:51 am

The mega city still uses canoe as means of transport by i

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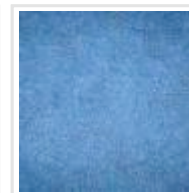


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anga sotonye October 30, 2012 at 8:11 am

Sad development. I sympathise with those affected, but i also see this incident as a wake-up call to make the use of life jackets compulsory for all people using any form of boat on our water ways. It is urgent that we ensure safety in our water ways. I also call on Government to subsidize the cost of life jackets so that our poor boat users can afford it.

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• *SALOS* October 30, 2012 at 9:33 am

its quite unfortunate, disheartening and a shame that people die in this country for reasons uncalled for. May their souls rest in peace and may God comfort their loved ones

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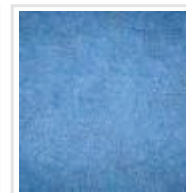
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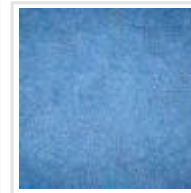
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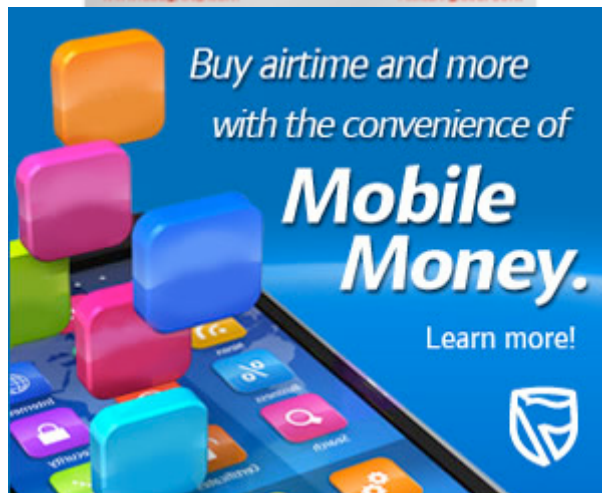
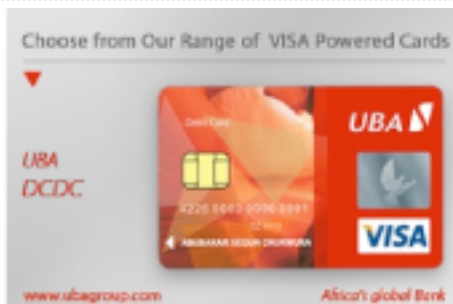
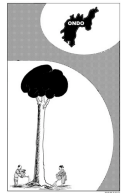
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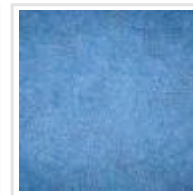
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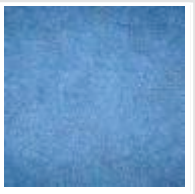
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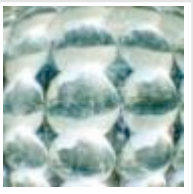
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