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Boat accident claims five in Niger

 APRIL 14, 2014 BY ENYIOHA OPARA [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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No fewer than five persons have lost their lives as a boat conveying passengers in Saturday afternoon capsized in Egah River in Edati Local Government Area of Niger State.

According to reports, the boat left Gbanchi in Edati for Sofanla village in the Egah River at about 2.30pm, when it hit a rock, thereby spinning before it eventually capsized. Consequently, five persons were drowned.

Our correspondent further gathered that villagers and fishermen in the area had been making frantic efforts to recover their bodies.

According to an eye witness, Mallam Iliyasu Gambo, who spoke to our correspondent, the passengers would not have drowned if they had worn life jackets. "The state government has told every passengers and operators of boats and ferry to always wear life jackets whenever they are travelling but these people did not wear life jackets and that is why we can't even save their lives," Gambo said.

It will be recalled that the Niger State Governor, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, had directed canoe and ferry operators to enforce the usage of life jackets before embarking on any trip.

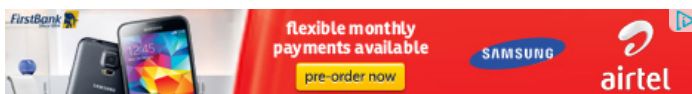
The Police Public Relations Officer in Niger, Mr. Richard Oguche, confirmed the accident, adding that the police had dispatched its marine personnel to the area to assist in the recovery of the remains of the drowned passengers.

According to the Oguche, among those that drowned in the mishap are Baba Mohammed, Abu Yaba, Audu Saidu, Jibrin Mohammed and Aisha Usman.

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