

50 killed as boat capsizes in Niger

Enyioha Opara, Minna

OVER 50 persons have been reportedly killed when a boat capsized in Kiri village in Munya Local Government Area of Niger State on Sunday.

Sixty people were said to have boarded the boat, including men, women, and children but only 50 bodies had been found as of the time of filing this report. Four of the victims, it was learnt, were rescued alive while six were still missing.

Divers have, however, been engaged to search for the remaining bodies.

It was learnt that the victims had boarded the boat to convey them to Zumba Market in Shiroro Local Government Area of the state but it capsized in the early hours of Sunday before it could get to its destination.

According to an eyewitness, the accident was caused by a downpour that forced the boat to capsize claiming the lives of majority of the passengers.

When contacted, the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, Babalola Adewole, confirmed the incident, adding that the command had sent a team

from its marine unit to the area but had yet to hear from them as of the time of filing this report.

Also, the Public Relations Officer, Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Ibrahim Hussaini, confirmed that there were 60 passengers on board

while four persons were rescued alive.

He added, "The whereabouts of others is still not known but we are in touch with the village head and men of our Marine Police Unit are already carrying out rescue operation in the area."

Ondo suspends 100 magistrates

Peter Dada, Akure

THE Ondo State Judicial Service Commission has suspended some magistrates serving in the state judiciary over impropriety in the process of their appointments.

It was gathered that most of the affected magistrates were allegedly appointed by the immediate past administration of Dr. Olusegun Mimiko.

A source told our correspondent that over 100 magistrates heading different magistrate courts across magisterial divisions of the state were affected.

The suspension letter dated September 13, 2017 and signed by the secretary of the commission, Mr. Z.D. Egbunu, which

was sent to one of the affected magistrates was made available to our correspondent on Sunday.

The letter read, "Due to perceived irregularities and lack of due process in your appointment as a Senior Registrar(functioning as Staff Attorney) in the Ondo State Judiciary within the judicial service of the state, the Honorable Acting Chief Judge/ Chairman of the JSC has directed your immediate suspension from the judicial service pending plenary consideration and review of the propriety of your appointment."

The affected judicial officers were directed to handover the properties of the government in their possession to the chief registrar.