

18 farmers killed in Bauchi boat accident, five rescued

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File image: Capsized boat

Armstrong Bakam, Bauchi

No fewer than 18 people have been killed in Bauchi State after a canoe carrying 23 farmers capsized.

Although five people were rescued, the driver and one other passenger were said to be unconscious.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Bauchi State Command, Ahmed Wakil, disclosed this in a statement made available to journalists on Friday.

According to him, the deceased included eight children, eight teenagers and two adults.

He said the incident occurred on Thursday on River Buji in the Itas Gadau Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

He said, “On November 12, 2020, around 11am, one Ali Adamu, village head of Majiya, came to Itas-Gadau Police Station and reported that on the same date, around 10.30am, one Nuhu Kaila of Zango Majiya village carried about 23 persons in a canoe, from Zango Majiya to the farm.

“On reaching the middle of River Buji, the canoe capsized and as a result, the following persons drowned in the river: Abdulraham Shehu (20), Suwaiba Yusuf (12), Saude Abdulkarim (14), Fatima Maigari (10), Zuwaira Maigari (10), Hari Maigari (nine), Hussaina Maigari (eight), Ummani Abdulkarim (15) and Halima Saminu (15), of Gidan Ganji village.

“Others are Najaatu Hamza (15), Nura Abdullahi (25), Yahuza Abdullahi (12), Hafsa Abdullahi of Majiya village (11), Sadiya Hashimu (10), Khadija Alhassan of Gwarai village (15), Amina Idris (15), Kaltima Hudu (14), Furaira Malam Magaji of Zangon Majiya village (14).”

Wakil, a Deputy Superintendent of Police added that the canoe driver and one Aisha Adamu, 16 and Umaru Adamu, 30, were unconscious when they were rescued.

He said upon receipt of the report, the DPO and a team of policemen rushed to the scene.

He added, “The corpses were removed from the river and taken to the General Hospital, Itas for postmortem examination. A medical doctor certified 18 persons dead, while five persons were rescued.”

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