18 die, six missing in Katsina canoe accident

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Not fewer than 18 persons died when a canoe capsized at a section of a river in Mai'adua Local Government Area of Katsina state on Wednesday night.

Fifteen of the victims who were from Tsabu village were buried on Thursday morning.

Katsina State Commissioner for Local government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Umar Gwajo- Gwajo, was among those who witnessed the burial.

The Commissioner neither picked his calls nor replied the SMS sent to him on the incident on Thursday.

Although details surrounding the incident were still sketchy, eyewitnesses said the canoe was conveying not less than 24 passengers.

The passengers were also said to comprise mainly people returning to their various villages after celebrating the Eid-el-Fitri.

"As of Thursday morning, we are still searching for six bodies," a source said.