

Drowned boat passengers didn't wear life jackets – LASWA



• *Scene of the incident*

Olamide Famuwagun

THE General Manager of the Lagos State Waterways Authority, Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, has said the two victims of a boat accident in the Ikorodu area of the state did not wear life jackets.

Emmanuel told *PUNCH Metro* that the victims might have removed the jackets.

He said, "It was strange that the deceased did not have their life jackets on them as they all boarded with their life jackets. The agency ensures all passengers on board wear their life jackets. They probably took off their life jackets or did not strap them while onboard."

Our correspondent learnt that the two yet-to-be-identified passengers died after

a boat carrying 17 passengers capsized due to a mechanical fault less than 200 metres from the Ikorodu terminal.

Emmanuel, in a statement on Wednesday, said the ferry submerged after it departed the Ipakodo ferry terminal in Ikorodu around 7.45am.

He said, "The water guards and the search and rescue team of the Lagos State Waterways Authority were mobilised to the scene of the incident, leading to the rescue of 15 persons alive, while the two female unconscious passengers were rushed to the nearest hospital for treatment.

"They were, however, later confirmed dead at a hospital.

"The boat captain is currently being investigated by the relevant authorities, while full investigation into the cause of this accident is ongoing."