Rivers police probe pirates' attack on passenger boat

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By Dennis Naku

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Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Eboka Friday

Suspected pirates have attacked a passenger boat and killed one of the occupants along the Billie waterways in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State. The attack also led to the death of one of the boat occupants.

A native of the community who gave his name only as Bebe for fear of attack told journalists in Port Harcourt that the boat took off from Bille and was heading for Port Harcourt before it was attacked.

He said the suspected pirates opened fire on the boat on Friday, adding that a corpse was recovered and one passenger was rescued.

Bebe said, "The passenger boat was going to Port Harcourt from Billie before it was attacked by gunmen. We entered the water and succeeded in rescuing one person. We also recovered one corpse which was taken to the community."

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He called on the state government to ensure increased security for travellers and along the waterways to forestall frequent attacks.

Contacted, spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the phone on Saturday.

Iringe-Koko said one of the victims who sustained gunshot injury was receiving treatment in an undisclosed closed hospital in Port Harcourt.

She said," Yes, the command is aware of the incident. It was pirates. Only one person was killed. We have commenced investigation to ascertain what happened and ensure that those behind the dastardly act are apprehended and made to face the law."