

2

## Five

Peter Dada, Akure

**N**O fewer than five persons were said to have lost their lives in a boat accident which occurred at Ugbo Nla in the Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The incident was said to have happened last Thursday while the victims, who were sea foods traders were travelling on sea from a market in Ugbo Nla.

The President of the Ondo State Fishermen Association of Nigeria, Orioye Gbayisemore, disclosed

# traders die as boat capsizes in Ondo

this to journalists in Akure, the state capital, on Sunday.

Gbayisemore attributed the death of the victims to the failure of the victims to wear their life jackets while travelling on the sea.

He said only one person who survived the accident was lucky because he wore a life jacket.

He, therefore, urged the state government to enforce the use of life jackets for all sea travellers, adding that there was a need for stringent measures to ensure compliance.

He said, "The presence of a life jacket saved the life of the sole survivor in this tragic incident. It is important in ensuring the safety of individuals engaging in maritime activities.

"The lone survivor in the Ugbo Nla boat accident had the foresight to wear a life jacket before setting out on the ill-fated trip. The life jacket was vital to his survival, keeping him buoyant until rescue arrived.

"This serves as a reminder of the urgent need to enforce the use

of life jackets for all individuals commuting on water."

Gbayisemore also urged the state government to prioritise dredging and clearing of waterways to facilitate safe and unobstructed movement for passengers.

"It is crucial to recognise that well-maintained waterways enhance ease of transportation and significantly reduce the risk of accidents, ensuring safety and wellbeing of those who rely on water transportation," he added.