

metro

Nollywood actor, Junior Pope, two others die in boat accident



Junior Pope

Dayo Oyewo and
Johnson Idowu

ANollywood actor, Pope Odumwodo, popularly known as Junior Pope, has reportedly passed away.

The actor is said to have lost his life during a boat trip to a movie location alongside other actors in Asaba, Delta State.

The news of his demise was shared on Wednesday, April 10, by filmmaker Samuel Olatunji.

He stated that the actor, along with three others, lost their lives when their boat capsized.

"Four actors, including Jnr Pope, fell into the Anam River on their way to a location, and their bodies have been recovered."

"What a sad day for Nollywood. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family," Olatunji wrote on his Instagram page.

The identities of the other three actors were, however, yet to be confirmed as of the time of this report.

Junior Pope leaves behind his wife and three children.

He has acted in Nollywood movies like "Secret Adventures," "Eye of the Eagle," "Bitter Generation," "Wrong Initiation," and "Honey Money," among others.

In a video he posted on his Instagram page on Wednesday, Junior Pope, who was on a boat without a life jacket, pleaded with the captain to go slowly.

The Nollywood actor implored his followers to see how actors risk their lives to entertain them.

He began to plead with the

captain to go slowly as he shouted, "I have three children to raise."

In the caption, he wrote, "See me lamenting... The risk we take to entertain you; crossing river gja yesterday with no life jacket... Na wahoooo... Who does that?"

Meanwhile, there is palpable anxiety in the movie industry over the current state of the actor's death as reports that emerged later indicated that the actor was resuscitated in the hospital.

The President of the Actors Guild of Nigeria, Emeka Rollas, as well as the Actors Guild of Nigeria, also joined in spreading the news that Junior Pope was alive.

Rollas, who disclosed this on his Instagram page on Wednesday evening, wrote, "What God cannot do does not exist. Junior Pope is alive. He is undergoing treatment in the hospital."

However, the AGN president deleted the post some moments later, leaving a sign of uncertainty over the actor's current status.

A similar message was also posted on the Actors Guild of Nigeria's Instagram page but was pulled down after about 30 minutes.

Efforts to get Rollas' reaction proved abortive as calls made to his phone were not answered. A text message sent to him had yet to be replied to as of the time of this report.

Meanwhile, *PUNCH Metro* gathered from a police source that Pope and 11 others were on their way to Asaba from Onono when their speedboat collided with a wooden boat that was travelling at high speed, resulting in the boat capsizing.

The source added that the Onitsha Marine patrol boat was dispatched to the scene of the incident, and seven persons were rescued alive, two recovered dead, and three persons were missing.

The source said, "At about 1400hrs, a distressed call was received from fishermen that a speedboat conveying members of the Nigerian actors, Asaba branch, from Onono Anam to Asaba hit a fisherman's wooden boat at high speed. As a result, 12 passengers in the speedboat fell into the river."

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