

# Two drown, 18 rescued as boat capsizes in Jigawa

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By Johnson Idowu

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## Scene of the incident

No fewer than two persons were drowned when a boat conveying some villagers in the Kalgwai community in Auyo Local Government Area of Jigawa State capsized on Sunday.

The incident, according to a statement by the National Emergency Management Agency obtained by *PUNCH Metro* on Wednesday, involved 20 persons who were returning from a nearby market in the Gujungu village.

NEMA noted that eyewitnesses' accounts indicated that the boat capsized because of the heavy loads it was carrying, which included the victims and their goods.

The statement noted that the victims boarded the boat in a haste to return to their home and at about 7 pm on the said date, it capsized under the weight of the passengers and the load it was carrying.



NEMA added further that it took the efforts of local divers to rescue 18 out of the 20 victims while two victims who were females drowned in the incident.

The statement read, "The incident occurred at about 7 pm on July 7, 2024, when the people of the community were returning from a nearby market in Gujungu Village.

"In their haste to get home, they were in a boat which according to the eyewitnesses was overloaded with 20 persons and their luggage, leading to the boat capsizing.



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“Despite efforts made by the local divers to rescue all passengers, only 18 were saved. Fifteen males and three females, while the remaining two females were drowned.”

The statement noted further that the rescued victims were taken to a general hospital within the local government.

“The affected persons were taken to the Auyo General Hospital for medical attention,” the statement concluded.

*PUNCH Online* reported on June 6 that four residents of Niger State were drowned while fleeing from bandits’ attack in Gurmana community of Shiroro Local Government Area.

Residents of the community usually take a canoe to an island in the area to hide from the bandits who had made the local government a haven for carrying out their activities.

It was learnt that the incident occurred after the residents who had fled to the island to hide were returning home.

The bandits were said to have killed three persons during the previous night’s attack, rustled cattle, and abducted scores in Bassa near Gurmana.

### Johnson Idowu

Johnson, an avid reader, has over four years experience in journalism covering education, politics and Metro.

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