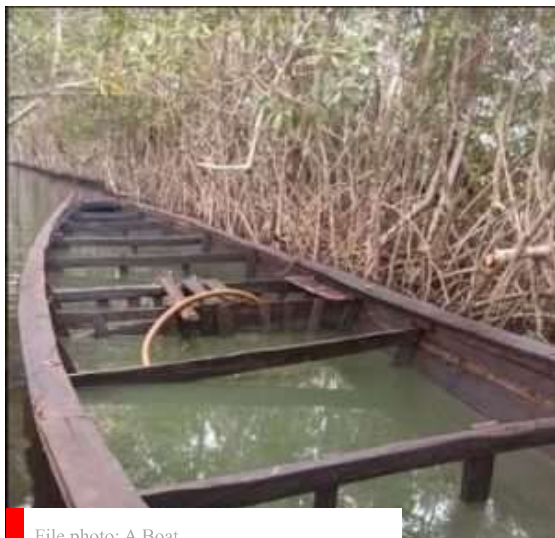


Six dead, 21 rescued in fresh Sokoto boat crash

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File photo: A Boat

By Lara Adejoro

Six persons have been confirmed dead, three others are missing, while 21 survivors were rescued following a boat accident that occurred on Friday, at Garin-Faji in Sabon-Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

This was disclosed in a press statement on Sunday by the Head of the Press Unit at the National Emergency Management Agency, Manzo Ezekiel.

The statement said a total of 30 passengers were involved in the crash.

“Out of this number, 21 survivors were rescued, including two canoe operators. Six bodies were later recovered from the river and buried according to Islamic rites before the arrival of the joint response team. Search and rescue efforts are ongoing to locate the three missing persons.

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“The National Emergency Management Agency, and the Sokoto Operations Office, responded to the incident on Saturday alongside other stakeholders, including the National Inland Waterways Authority, the Sokoto State Emergency Management Agency, the Nigerian Army, the Nigerian Red Cross, the Sokoto State Ministry of Works, the member representing Sabon-Birni in the Sokoto State House of Assembly, as well as officials of the local government council and traditional leaders.

“NEMA has called on relevant regulatory authorities to enforce strict compliance with safety protocols on waterways. This includes ensuring the mandatory use of life jackets by passengers and operators of canoes and boats used for transportation and commercial activities,” the statement said.

It added that the Sokoto Operations Office is closely monitoring the search and rescue operations and will continue to provide updates on the situation.

PUNCH Metro had reported that about 25 passengers were declared missing after a boat carrying more than 50 people to a local market capsized last week in the River Goronyo. A councillor in Sokoto State, Aminu Bare, said 25 people were found alive.