

# Many feared dead in fresh Sokoto boat accident

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Bodies recovered in Sokoto boat accident and sympathisers. Photo: Animasahun Salman

By Animashaun Salman

Scores of passengers were feared dead following a boat accident on Thursday evening in Shagari Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The incident, the third boat mishap in the state within one month, occurred on the waterways and has raised renewed concerns over safety measures.

The Special Adviser to Governor Ahmed Aliyu on the State Emergency Management Agency, Aminu Liman Bodinga, disclosed that officials from SEMA, the National Emergency Management Agency, and the National Inland Waterways Authority had begun search and rescue operations.

Eyewitnesses said the boat, carrying multiple passengers, capsized mid-river, throwing everyone into the water.

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The exact number of casualties is yet to be confirmed as of the time of filing this report.

Residents and safety experts cited poor safety standards, lack of motorised boats, and absence of life jackets as contributing factors.

They have urged government authorities to improve safety regulations and transport facilities.

The Sokoto State Government is expected to release an official statement once rescue operations are completed, while families in Shagari and surrounding communities await news of their loved ones.