

2 drown, 10 wounded in Delta boat mishap

FROM EMMANUEL OGOIGBE, WARRI

Two persons drowned and 10 others seriously wounded in a boat mishap, which occurred on Tuesday evening along the Burutu River in Delta State.

Checks by Daily Sun revealed that the 12 passengers were travelling to one of the riverine communities to attend a funeral ceremony when the unfortunate incident occurred midway into the journey.

Investigation revealed that two men drowned instantly when the boat capsized while divers and sympathizers rescued the 10 other passengers from beneath the river.

A dependable source told Daily Sun that it took some time to rescue the wife of one of the deceased who was rushed to a nearby hospital.

The deceased whose identities could not be ascertained at press time were said to be in their late fifties.

It was also gathered that incident mishaps had been very rampant in recent times in the area, as no fewer than four of such incidents had occurred since the beginning of this year.

Meanwhile, the riverine dwellers in the state have appealed to the state government to construct jetties and provide landing points as well as erecting foreshore walls to stem the tide.

That affected areas include Ogbe-Ijoh, Ayakoromo and many other Ijaw communities.

Reacting to the problems faced by the riverine dwellers, the National President of Ijaw Peoples' Development Initiative (IPDI), Austin Ozobo, lamented the total absence of concrete jetty, good health facilities, pipe borne water, good transportation system, health and educational facilities in the communities.

According to him, there were also cases of sea piracy and other social vices, which he blamed on the poor handling of the amnesty programme.

"Initially, we thought the Federal Amnesty Programme will help to reduce criminal activities, unfortunately, none of the promises made to develop the riverine area have been fulfilled," said Ozobo.

by Kuku
f Naval
er Delta

arged the
their bail

sons are

Sergeant

echukwu

ka Ka-

asa Og-

suf and

Abang

a, Alhaji

Okoghi-

oma Ab

e Evans

sons and

e said to

d in the

r under-

NIPORT,

Obuzor,

Tekenah

dika Bir-

occurred

2012, in

communi-

Govern-

ate.

neigh-

Okon-

Nigeria

a com-

rm of

petro-

appoint-

e Aig-

mmittee,

d lapses

process-

e dis-

aid, the

ment put

er of re-

to com-

subsidy