

City CRIME, COURT & LIVING

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Again, 8 die in Bayelsa boat mishap

From **Femi Folaranmi**,
Yenagoa

TRAGEDY, again, struck yesterday, in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area when a passenger boat capsized, killing eight people.

The boat was conveying passengers from Korokorosei to Ayama Ijaw, both in Southern Ijaw local government area.

Seven people travelling from Otuan to Ayama in Southern Ijaw were killed in a boat mishap that occurred over the weekend.

Findings indicated that the passenger boat was conveying 12 passengers when the accident occurred. It was said to be raining and the tarpaulin used to provide shield for the passengers was said to have been blown by the wind, which covered the boat driver's face and made him hit a local boat, causing the boat to capsize.

The State Chairman of Maritime Union Workers Union, Mr Ipigansi Ogoniba, who confirmed the accident in an interview, described the accident as another avoidable tragedy.

"The accident occurred around 9am this morning (Wednesday). The boat was travelling from Korokorosei to Ayama Ijaw. It was raining, so the boat driver covered the passengers with tarpaulin, but, unfortunately, the passengers did not hold the tarpaulin well and the wind blew it and the tarpaulin covered the driver's face and he

hit the local boat and the boat capsized. The boat loaded 12 passengers and eight drowned, while four were saved by our rescue team, while the empty boat was taken to Oyoma," he said.

ADC presidential candidate slams N1bn suit against online medium

From **Adetutu Folasade-Koyi**, Abuja

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the All Democratic Congress (ADC), Mr. Dumebi Kachikwu, has slammed a N1 billion suit against People's Gazette, an online newspaper, for alleged defamation.

In a statement issued by his Presidential Campaign Office, in Abuja, yesterday, Kachikwu dismissed allegations of tax evasion and fraud made against him as untrue, baseless and politically motivated.

The online newspaper had alleged that a United States of America court had ordered the confiscation of Kachikwu's property over tax evasion.

Said Kachikwu: "Yesterday (Tuesday, June 21, 2022), I was inundated with calls and messages over a libellous and defamatory publication by an online blog known as Peoples Gazette.

"The publication not only

Ogoniba lamented the failure of boat drivers to provide life jackets for passengers, which was meant to save them from drowning. He said the union's rule states that no boat should sail without life jacket, but, unfortunately, the rule is

often violated.

He hinted that in the coming days, the union would synergise with its task force and security agencies, to clampdown on boat drivers travelling without life jackets for passengers.

accused me of tax evasion but, also, accused me of delivering cash bribes to a former US Congressman. These are untrue. Here are the facts of the matter:

"A few days ago, my campaign team received information that one of the aspirants who lost out in the just-concluded ADC presidential primaries was planning a series of smear campaigns against me. I was, therefore, not surprised when I saw this story yesterday. Contrary to the information being peddled, I was assessed an additional \$9 million several years ago by the US Inland Revenue Service (IRS).

"This amount was reduced to \$2 million and when the IRS sued to collect the amount, my lawyers didn't contest it and, instead, waited for a default judgement, in order to go to the next stage which is making an offer in compromise, to reduce the amount to be paid. This is a standard legal practice in tax matters. People's Gazette also claimed I was not a first-time offender, having been previously indicted in a fraud case in 2009."

On allegations of bribing jailed congressman Jefferson, Kachikwu insisted it was the other way round.

"The report claimed I had delivered a \$100,000 cash bribe to curry the favour of the former US congressman. This is another lie as multiple evidence abounds online, clearly, showing I was the victim who reported the US congressman to the EFCC and the FBI for defrauding my company.

"The publisher of this infamous blog intentionally stood truth on its head, in order to achieve a predetermined objective. In a series of coordinated attacks, they aggressively disseminated this story through various mediums, to damage and tarnish my image. I have now instructed my lawyers to sue all digital media organisations who participated in the dissemination of this falsehood.

"They will also petition the police to arrest and prosecute all those who have breached the Cybercrime Act, by using twitter to defame, harass and threaten me. I will no longer tolerate these persistent attacks from sore losers."

Over 2,700 killed by herdsmen in Benue - Group

From **Rose Ejembi**, Makurdi

A group known as Association of Kwande Academia (AKA) has lamented the incessant herdsmen attacks on the Turan axis of Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, stressing that the attacks have claimed over 2,728 lives between 2014 and 2022.

The group also regretted that more than 200,000 households have been destroyed with property and farmlands worth over N3 trillion destroyed by the invading herdsmen in the Turan axis of Kwande local government area alone. The association, in a state-

opportunities, and making them more vulnerable and at risk of violence, such as bullying, rebelliousness, thuggery, arm robbery, prostitution, banditry and juvenile delinquency."

The group also noted that since the inception of the crises in 2014, the federal government has not taken sufficient steps to halt the killings, deploy serious security units to vulnerable areas, disarm and prosecute perpetrators of violence, and address issues concerning the displaced people.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

FEDERAL

PUBLIC DISPLAY ON THE EN' PROPOSED CERAMIC MANUFACTURE IN OBINOFIA COMMUNITY BY SAPPHIRE CERAMIC GROUP

In accordance with the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for their twenty-one (21) working days public Impact Assessment (EIA) report submission inputs that shall enable the Minister

The Display Centers are: -

- ✓ Headquarters, Ezeagu Local Government
- ✓ Enugu State Ministry of Environment, Enugu State.
- ✓ Federal Ministry of Environment