

# Kwara boat mishap: Tinubu orders probe as death toll hits 106

From **Jullana Taiwo-Obalonye**, Abuja and **Layi Olanrewaju**, Ilorin

**PRESIDENT** Bola Tinubu has expressed sadness over the boat mishap, which occurred in Kwara State and claimed many lives.

In a statement issued by Director of Information, State House, Abiodun Oladunjoye, the boat accident according to reports, led to the death of over 100 wedding guests at Egbu village in Patigi Local Government Area of the state.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of the tragic boat accident which claimed the lives of our people in Kwara State. That the victims were guests at a wedding ceremony made the unfortunate accident more painful.

"My heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of victims of the tragic mishap. I also sympathise with the government and people of Kwara State over the accident. May all loved ones find comfort," the president prayed.

While urging the Kwara State government and relevant Federal Government agencies to look into the circumstances surrounding the boat accident, President Tinubu promised that his administration would look into the challenges of inland water transportation in the country, to ensure the mat-

ter of safety and operational standards are strictly adhered to.

"The Kwara State government and relevant federal agencies should work together to unravel the immediate and remote causes of this unfortunate accident.

"Immediate relief and necessary assistance should also be provided to the survivors

 **HYPPADEC** blames fatality on victims' failure to wear life jackets  
From **Layi Olanrewaju**, Ilorin

**THE** Managing Director of Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC), Abubakar Yelwa, yesterday, blamed the high fatality recorded in Monday's boat mishap in Patigi, Kwara State to the failure of the victims to use life jackets.

He, therefore, called on the relevant authorities to legislate a law that will make it mandatory for boat passengers across the country to always wear life jackets.

Yelwa, equally called for a law to restrain boat operators from operating at night. He lamented that the N1.6 billion life jackets that HYPPADEC procured last year for the use of boat passengers were not utilised.

The HYPPADEC's boss spoke in Ilorin, the state capital, during the flag off of the in-

and families of victims," the president said.

Meanwhile, the Kwara State Police Command has released details of the mishap, putting the casualty figure at 106.

The command's spokesman, Okasanmi Ajayi, yesterday, said: "Information was received by the Divisional Police Officer of Patigi Divisional Headquarters that a boat ac-

auguration of the 2023 HYPPADEC subsidised fertilisers for 5, 795 farmers in Kwara State. Represented by the director of Community in the agency, Dr Mahmud Umar, Yelwa said: "The fatality recorded in the unfortunate boat

## Kebbi gov's wife expresses concern over 39 rape cases in 6 months

From **Olanrewaju Lawal**, Birnin Kebbi

**WIFE** of Kebbi State Governor, Hajiya Zainab Nasiru-Idris, has expressed concern over the report of 39 cases of rape recorded in the state within six months.

Idris stated this when officials of the National Union of Kebbi State Students (NUKESS) and National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Kebbi chapter, paid her a courtesy visit at the Government House, Birnin Kebbi.

The disturbing figure was

cident occurred around the River Niger axis.

"On receiving the information, Commissioner of Police, Kwara State, Paul Odama, immediately dispatched a team of policemen to join others, as well as locals to locate the exact spot the boat accident happened and to join in rescue efforts.

"On leaving the shore, one

mishap in Patigi on Monday, this week, was due to failure of the boat passengers to use life jackets. HYPPADEC spent N1.6 billion on the procurement of life jackets for boat passengers last year.

"If the victims had put on

part of the boat by the engine side collapsed, causing water to penetrate the boat. This ultimately led to the boat capsizing. All efforts to draw the attention of the villagers hosting the wedding ceremony for assistance by the people in the boat proved abortive, leading to the death of about 106 people."

the life jackets, the fatality rate would have been very minimal because a life jacket can keep a victim afloat for at least seven hours and help would have come from villagers within that period.

(Continued on [www.sunnewsonline](http://www.sunnewsonline))

disclosed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Hajiya A'isha Muhammad-Maikurata, earlier in her remark to the female students who were Vice President, Students Union Government (SUG) of their respective tertiary institutions and associations. The governor's wife described the figure as alarming and stressed that rape remained an ugly trend in Gender Based Violence (GBV)

which needed the support and cooperation of all to eliminate. She also expressed concern over the number of out-of-school children in the state and urged the parents to be up to their moral and religious responsibilities. She identifies lack of access to quality education as one of the causes pushing young people into banditry, kidnapping and other social ills.

(Continued on [www.sunnewsonline](http://www.sunnewsonline))

## Nigeria, India agree to block illicit drug flow as NDLEA, NCB sign MoU

## Bandits attack mourners, kidnap policeman, 2 others in Oyo