

Ebonyi boat mishap: 1 dead, goods destroyed

From Uchenna Inya, Abakaliki

ONE person has been confirmed dead in a boat mishap that occurred in a river along Itigidi axis, Cross River State.

Also, goods worth millions of naira were destroyed in the disaster.

Leader of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Hon. Kingsley Ikoro, who confirmed the incident, said a boat capsized following the turbulent that occurred along the Itigidi axis of a river which caused the disaster.

Ikoro, noted that there were over 20 women including the boat driver on transit when the incident occurred.

He explained that the women who are all from Ozziza community, Afikpo Local Government Area of Ebonyi state, travelled to Cross River state to buy foodstuffs in Cross River state.

Ikoro said the incident happened while the boat was berthing at Ozizza beach, Afikpo LGA on their arrival and expressed sadness over the disaster.

"I received early this morning the heartbreaking news of the water accident involving some women from Afikpo LGA. The women were on a business trip from Cross River state, when the accident occurred at Itigidi in Cross River state. It involved the death of a woman from Ozizza and loss of their goods worth several millions of naira.

"This happening at this period of time in our country is indeed very painful. I deeply feel this pain as well, knowing that the death of a man as it usually said diminishes us, more so when we are directly

involved", he stated.

The Lawmaker promised to get close to the victims to ascertain how assistance could be rendered to them.

"It is my honest prayer that

the families involved entrust themselves entirely to God, our father. It was in the course of an honest labour and suffer for the people close to their heart that the accident occurred, showing

the greatest proof of their love for their respective family.

"I plead with these families to trust in God who has placed this burden on them", Ikoro stated.

Insecurity: Attacks on Matawalle, Ribadu target at Tinubu, AYCF president

From Sola Ojo, Abuja

PRESIDENT General of the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF), Yerima Shettima yesterday said that recent verbal attacks on the Minister of State Defence Bello Matawalle and the National Security Adviser (NSA) Nuhu Ribadu were targeted at President Bola Tinubu.

The Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal, in one of his recent appearances on a national television had argued that the current administration at the federal level lacked the will to address the chronic insecurity afflicting his state and Northern Nigeria as a whole.

To him, "Governor Lawal through sponsored faceless

groups attacked the Minister for state defence Matawalle and the NSA apparently calling for their removal, another subtle way of trying to get at Tinubu, knowing well that they are among his trusted loyalists.

"Governor Lawal has failed to repose his own ineffectiveness and absence during critical security crises affecting his state, stressing that on the very day female students from the Federal University, Gusau, were abducted, the Governor embarked on a personal trip to the United States, thus leaving his state leaderless during a dire emergency.

"Governor Lawal's unwarranted trip to the United States

at such a critical time demonstrates his disconnection from the realities on the ground in Zamfara. It was alarming that the governor remained incommunicado and inaccessible to efforts from the Ministry of Defence and federal government officials seeking his cooperation.

"It is no longer news that Governor Lawal, has consistently refused to collaborate with federal initiatives aimed at combating insecurity, thereby, undermining collective efforts. This was recently collaborated with a viral video where bandits pledged their allegiance to him.

(Continued on www.thesun.ng)

Court orders bank to pay N75m to firm for breach of agreement

By Lukman Olabiyi

JUSTICE Olumuyiwa Martins of the Lagos High Court has ordered a bank to pay N75 million in damages for breaching a non-disclosure and non-circumvention agreement with Comfort Stevens Nigeria Limited and its CEO, Dr. John Nwankwo.

The court awarded N50 million for damages and N25 million for the claimants' legal costs.

Comfort Stevens Nigeria Limited and Nwankwo initiated the suit after Sterling Bank circumvented a confidential-

ity deed, dated September 16, 2019, and a non-disclosure and non-circumvention agreement, dated October 3, 2019.

The bank engaged in the same project with a third party without the claimants' consent or disclosure, violating the agreement's terms and conditions.

Justice Martins declared the breach unlawful and unjustifiable, issuing a perpetual injunction preventing the bank, its personnel and agents from engaging in any acts prohibited by the agreement.

The claimants had planned

a N10.5 billion footwear and shoe component technology and automated project in Aba, Abia State, which the bank was interested in financing, if the amount was reduced to N4.5 billion.

After the claimants agreed and executed the necessary agreements to protect their trade secrets, the bank violated the agreements by negotiating with the Abia and Kano state governments on similar projects without the claimants' knowledge.

The claimants filed a suit in 2020, arguing that the bank acted in bad faith by using their trade secrets to negotiate with third parties.

(Continued on www.thesun.ng)

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