Navy officer dies rescuing 59 persons from drowning

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THE Nigerian Navy said one of its operatives has lost his life while attempting to save 59 persons from drowning in turbulent seas.

The Navy Director of Information, Commodore Aliu Adams who made the disclosure in Abuja, said: "On July 30, 2024, the Nigerian Navy received a distress call from MV AMBIKA 4, a dredging vessel working at Okpobo field contracted to Sterling Global Oil Limited.

"It was reported that the vessel was at the risk of sinking near Okpobo River entrance an area known to be turbulent at this time of the year."

Accordingly, Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base BONNY deployed a Rescue Team comprising 10 armed personnel in two interceptor boats led by the Base Operations Officer, Lieutenant Commander Gideon Yashim Gwaza, for the rescue operation.

"Attempts to approach the distressed vessel proved challenging due to the force of the waves and another squadron of three boats was dispatched to reinforce the rescue team.

"Additionally, another vessel, Nigerian Navy Ship Gongola, drones, Nigerian Navy helicopters, and one Nigerian Air force helicopter were deployed for the search and rescue mission.

"Eventually, all 59 crew were rescued successfully but the Base Operations Officer, Lieutenant Commander Gideon Yashim Gwaza paid the supreme price. He fell overboard accidentally during the rescue operation, which lasted for about 10 hours."