

# Tompolo father's burial: Four die in boat mishap

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Four people lost their lives in a boat mishap on their way to the burial ceremony of Chief Thomas Ekpemupolo, the late father of wanted ex-militant leader, Chief Government Ekpemupolo, popularly known as 'Tompolo,' over the weekend.

*Sunday Telegraph* gathered that hardly had the victims of the mishap taken off from the Miller Waterside, Warri, on their way to Kurutie, in Warri South West Council Area of Delta State, venue of the funeral when the speedboat they boarded capsized.

It was also gathered that the victims of the boat mishap were three females from Ogulagha and Kurutie communities as well as a man, apparently from the Northern part of the country, who was said to be conveying wares he intended to sell at the funeral ground.

A Gbramatu community

chairman, who spoke to *Sunday Telegraph* on position of anonymity, said they heard the news of the unfortunate incident while they were at the funeral, celebrating the late Chief Ekpemupolo.

He said, "Initially, we were told that only two persons died but further details revealed that about four persons -three females including one Faith (surname withheld) from Ogulagha, another female from Kurutie and a man apparently from the Northern part of the country, lost their lives in the mishap.

"The Hausa man, I gathered, was actually not an invited dignitary, but someone, who was conveying some wares to trade at the funeral ground."

Our correspondent gathered that the funeral rites of the late Chief Ekpemupolo continues today (Sunday) with his interment at Okerenkoko, his final rest place, where another wake was held yesterday as part of the week-long rites.