

# 7 die in Edo boat accident

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**T**ragedy struck last Thursday in the oil rich community of Gelegele in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State when seven women out of 28 passengers were drowned in a boat accident which occurred after a boat rammed into oil barges belonging to a multi-national oil exploration company said to have been wrongly parked.

Gelegele, a small riverine community and host to Dubri Multi-national Oil Exploring Company is about 35 kilometres from Benin City, the Edo State Capital.

The accident was said to have occurred when a passenger boat carrying mainly market women, including children from Ofunama community parked at Gelegele to drop some passengers and discovered that it ran out of fuel, but in the process of refuelling it was pushed by heavy water current which forced the boat against the parked barges blocking water ways.

An incident, the officials of the local government and members of the community said could have been avoided.

However, reacting to the development, State Police Command said the Thursday Gelegele boat accident claimed one person who was confirmed dead, while four others were injured.

The Edo State command's spokesperson, SP Chidi Nwabuzor, while confirming the accident, said, Marine police con-

firmed that one person died and four others injured.

"Twenty five persons were involved in the accident, one died and four injured while others were rescued unhurt.

But, a source in the area who spoke to journalists however claimed that about seven persons died in boat mishap.

Some of the victims that managed to survive were brought out from under the barges by men of the marine police stationed in Gelegele.

## Ondo doctors beg for hazard allowance

**T**he Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) has appealed to the Ondo State government to pay doctors their hazard allowances to prevent them from going on strike.

Ondo NMA Chairman Omosehin Adeyemi-Osowe made the call yesterday in Akure during a news conference heralding Physicians' Week.

Omosehin-Osowe said members working under the state government had been patient enough over the failure of the government to implement a 100 per cent hazard allowance for them.

He explained that the association might not be able to guarantee industrial harmony in the health sector if the state government failed to release a circular for the implementation of the health hazard by today.

The chairman said the Federal Government and some other state governments had been paying their doctors the increased hazard allow-