

# 2 Death toll in River Niger boat \* accident rise to 8 as 4 still missing

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**T**wenty four hours after the reported boat accident on the Anambra State end of River Niger last Sunday, four passengers are still missing from the incident, while eight others were confirmed dead as against the initial figure of four passengers earlier reported.

Similarly it has been confirmed that 38 passengers survived the accident out of the 50 that were on board the boat on that fateful morning.

Recall that an eye witness account had it that the number of passengers on board the boat could not be ascertained as at the time of the accident, expressing fears that more pas-

sengers may still be missing.

The eye witness also said that divers and officials of the water ways were still on hand to continue search for more passengers which has been confirmed by this current report.

According to the General Manager of the National Inland Water Ways Authority NIWA, Mr Jibril Dardu who spoke to reporters said the boat was a wooden engine boat that left Kogi State enroute Onitsha through Umumu Anam in Anambra West Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Dardu further explained that the officials of the Maritime department are still on hand in the search for the four missing passengers adding that the Authority sympathises with the families of the dead passengers.