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22 Die in Boat Mishap

From Augustine Osayande in Jalingo, 07.07.2009

A boat mishap has claimed the lives of 22 people in Jibu village at Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. The boat was convening 40 people, mostly women, to a naming ceremony taking place across the river, Sunday evening, when it capsized with the 40 people on board.

THISDAY gathered that 22 dead bodies have been recovered and rescue effort was still going on. The remains of about eight women were recovered and identified to have come from one family compound in the village.

Confirming the report to newsmen, the acting chairman of the local government, Mr. Ladan Umar, described the incident as a shocking tragedy. A member representing the area at the state House of Assembly, Josaih Kente, said he was working to ensure that necessary assistance is given to the victims and their relatives.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Sani Baba, also confirmed the incident. He said the police were working to ascertain the actual number of casualties. As at the time of filing this report, THISDAY learnt that over 10 people who were in the boat were still missing.

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