

Principal, three others drown in boat mishap

BY JOHNBOSCO
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CALABAR—NO fewer than four persons, including the Principal of Eniong Comprehensive Secondary School, Atan, in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State, Prince Anoyom Owen, are feared dead, after two boats travelling in opposite directions collided in Eniong River.

According to an eye witness, who said he was in one of the ill-fated boats, the principal was returning from Calabar, the state capital, after an official trip to the Ministry of Education, when the incident occurred.

Ekpo said: "Prince Onoyom was returning from Calabar, where he went to sort out some issues concerning his school and came back a little late and boarded the boat at Okopedi heading to Eniong at 8 pm."

He said the principal

boarded the boat along with ten others, who were also going to Eniong and on the way, another boat coming from the opposite direction with about 20 passengers on top speed collided with the principal's boat and the passengers in the two boats were flung into the river.

"The boats had no light although the moon was shining brightly. We do not know why the operators of the boats could not see each other coming in the opposite direction and collided," Ekpo said.

The lucky Ekpo said most of the passengers were rescued by an emergency rescue team but the 50-year-

old principal and three others could not be located that night until the next day.

"The next morning the search party from the community located the bodies some three kilometers down the Eniong River after they had been washed ashore," he said.

SSS operatives manhandle *The Nation* correspondent in A-Ibom

BY TONY NYONG

UYO—AKWA Ibom State correspondent of *The Nation* Newspaper, Mr. Kazeem Ibrahim, was, yesterday, beaten to coma by gun-trotting security operatives during Governor Godswill Akpabio's 50th birthday thanksgiving service in Uyo.

Kazeem is the third victim in the series of the State Service Services, SSS, operatives

manhandling of journalists at government sponsored events in the state despite complaints by the state Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, to security agencies.

Journalists in the state, mostly members of Correspondents Chapel of NUJ, arrived the venue of the church service, at 10.30 am but were barred by SSS operatives at the gate from entering even when they presented official invitation

cards.

It was only when the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Pastor Anietie Ukpe, arrived that he appealed to the armed security men to allow journalists enter the hall.

After some journalists were cleared, the security details at the gate stopped *The Nation* correspondent from entering, as his explanation was rebuffed.

All of a sudden, the six-foot-tall journalist, Mr. Ibrahim, was carried up like a baby, hauled and pummelled by SSS operatives.