

Taraba Speaker's driver dead, 2 missing in boat mishap

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By John Mkom

JALINGO—A senior driver of Taraba State House of Assembly's Speaker, Peter Diah, is one of the three persons declared missing as a local boat, carrying nine passengers and three motorcycles, reportedly capsized at Ngira village across River Donga in Sadauna Local Government Area of the state.

The accident, which occurred at an international route linking Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroon, claimed the life of one of the passengers.

The driver was said to be on his way from Gyembu, where he had attended a wedding of the son of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Taraba State on Political Matters, Abubakar Bawa, to the Speaker's village, Vakunde, in the same Sadauna Local Government.

The Speaker, Peter Diah, who spoke to *Vanguard* through his Personal Assistant, Muhammed Harris, blamed the accident on overloading of the local boat and lack of accessible roads within the area.

He further disclosed that the immediate past chairman of Sadauna Local Government Area, Dawood Joduwa, and a former Councillor from the local government area, were among the five that survived the accident.

Vanguard gathered that the accident happened in the early hours of Saturday and most passengers in the boat were on their way to pay homage to the Speaker, who was in the village for the weekend.

Diah also revealed that efforts were still on to find the missing persons.

He pleaded with government at all levels to construct roads within the area to ease the sufferings of the locals and reduce such accidents.