

are on the trail of the family.

## Death toll in River Niger boat mishap rises to 9

**T**HE death toll from Friday's River Niger boat accident has increased to nine, with 25 people still missing and 26 rescued, officials have said.

The boat was ferrying traders to Warra, Ngaski Local Government Area of Kebbi State, from Malale market in Borgu Local Government Area of Niger State.

Senator Bala ibn Na'Allah, Deputy Senate Leader, and other government officials, were in the area for on-the-spot assessment and condolences.

A former governor of Kebbi State, Abubakar Musa, who also received

the Senator in his house in Warra, said government needs to provide life jackets and modern passenger boats for such trips.

Responding, Na'Allah said the problem of travelling on boats on the River Niger will be presented to the Senate as a national issue as soon as the National Assembly resumes from Easter break.

He donated N1 million to the victims of the accident.

The boat's captain, Dantata Dogonawarra, said: "We hit a stump, which caused the accident. I also lost three of my relations in the accident.

"I have never experienced any accident in my over 20 years as a boat driver on these waters."

Akwa Ihon