

Lagos boat mishap: LASWA recovers remaining 2 missing bodies

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The Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) on Thursday said the bodies of the remaining two victims of the Tuesday boat mishap had been recovered.

*MOURNING: Boat operators at Majidun Jetty, Ikorodu, suspended ferry services in honour of the victims of Wednesday's boat mishap that claimed seven lives. INSET: Stranded passengers redirected to the Metro Jetty, Ikorodu, yesterday. NAN PHOTOS.

Recall that the unfortunate incident that involved two passenger speed-boats occurred at Irewe community in Ojo, near Lagos late Tuesday.

A total of 13 out of the 18 passengers involved in the accident were rescued alive while three were confirmed dead and two declared missing.

The General Manager of LASWA, Mr Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, told NAN on Thursday in Lagos, that the bodies of the last two victims, a young adult and a youth were recovered at 8:30 am on Thursday.

Emmanuel condemned the reckless disregard to safety regulations by some boat operators.

He said the authority would not relent on its efforts to ensure full compliance with safety regulations by boat operators to make the waterways safe.

The LASWA boss had in a statement on Tuesday, said that 13 people were rescued alive in the incident, three others were confirmed dead while rescue operation for the remaining two victims had continued.

He said that the head-on collision which occurred at about 6:10 pm, involved two passenger speed-boats along the creek in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Emmanuel said that there were 10 passengers in the boat from Ojo Jetty and eight passengers in the other from Irewe community when the incident occurred.

He said that the search and rescue operation was by relevant state agencies and the local community who were the first responders.

The general manager said that preliminary investigations by LASWA and LASEMA revealed that the incident was caused by reckless driving and over-speeding on the part of the boat captains.

He said that further investigations would be carried out by the authority and those found wanting would be sanctioned accordingly.

Boat accidents have become rampant on sea routes in Lagos, Nigeria's crowded economic hub with the June 29 incident claiming 17 lives.

The 20-passenger capacity unmarked boat with a 60" Hp engine capsized after being hit by severe waves mid-sea en route Egbin Jetty in Ijede, Ikorodu at about 11:00pm with only three survivors.

Investigations carried out by LASWA on the tragedy revealed that the accident was caused by poor visibility and the fact that the passengers had no life jackets .

Also, on Feb. 2, three people died and 17 others were rescued as a passenger boat capsized at Bayeku area of Ikorodu.