

How local divers, fishermen rescued sailing boat in Lagos

...17 rescued, one dead — NEMA

By Bose Adelaja & Esther Onyegbulah

LOCAL divers, fishermen and boat operators in Lagos State, yesterday, rescued a sailing boat with 18 occupants, including the operators on board.

However, one of the occupants was presumed dead while 17 others were rescued.

The fishermen were said to be on water at that time and they put a call across their colleagues and local divers around the area before the arrival of government agencies.

Acting Coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, Lagos State, Ibrahim Farinloye, who confirmed the development said the local divers, fishermen and boat operators were the first responders at the scene of the incident.

According to him, emergency responders from state and federal also joined the operation and hastened the exercise which lasted for less than 30

minutes.

Farinloye said the boat operators were trained on what to do before the arrival of government agencies.

The ill-fated boat was said to have left Lagos Island for Ikorodu area before the incident occurred around Adekunle.

It was learnt that the deceased, a male identified as Uzochukwu, gave up while being rushed to the hospital while First Aid treatment was applied on those rescued before they all went to their homes.

An witness, who pleaded anonymity told Vanguard that two local boats immediately came to the rescue of the victims as soon as the incident was noticed, adding: "The passengers scampered for safety but they were all rescued except one who died on the way to the hospital. I guess this was due to fear of the unknown."

Contacted, General Manager, Lagos State Waterways Authority, LASWA, Damilola Emmanuel said his federal counterpart was the first government agency to arrive the scene.