

# 17 corpses recovered in Niger boat mishap

By Wole Mosadomi

**M**INNA—SEVENTEEN corpses have been recovered while local divers are still seaching for others following a boat mishap in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State.

The ill-fated boat was carrying 48 passengers Friday evening before tragedy struck at the Gbara area of the North-Central state.

Director-General of Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Ahmed Inga, who confirmed the incident in a statement, said the boat, which took off from Lanchikagi village of Lavun Local Government Area of the state was heading to Gbara village.

The statement read in part: "Nsema has received a report of a boat mishap that occurred yesterday evening around 6:30 pm at the Gbara area of Mokwa LGA (River Kaduna). The boat, which took off from Lanchikagi village of Lavun LGA, was heading to Gbara village.

"There were 48 passengers on board and they were said to be returning from Danchitagi village market (Lavun LGA) which comes up every Friday.

"The cause of the incident was as a result of a downpour, which was accompanied by a violent windstorm."

According to Inga, search and rescue operations are ongoing to recover more bodies.