

21 feared dead, 11 rescued as boats collide in Lagos

By Esther
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NO fewer than 21 passengers were feared dead in a boat accident that occurred at Imore town in the Amuwo-Odofin area of Lagos State, yesterday.

Vanguard gathered that two unregistered passenger boats collided in the middle of the lagoon near Imore Town, Lagos.

Police spokesperson in Lagos State, Mr. Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed this, yesterday, in Lagos.

Hundeyin said that the police received a distress call over the accident, on Monday.

"A distress call was received at Ilashe Division that two unregistered passenger boats, both having 16 passengers onboard, collided at the middle of the lagoon at Imore Town.

"In the process, the boats capsized and passengers got drowned with the goods," he said.

The spokesperson said that emergency responders consequently stormed the scene.

"Teams of conventional/marine policemen, local divers and other emergency responders were swiftly mobilised to the scene where 11 of the passengers were rescued with injuries.

"The injured were rushed to Navy Hospital, Navy Town, Alakija, for medical attention, while search and rescue operation is being intensified with a view to recovering bodies of victims," the spokesperson said.

According to him, investigation was ongoing in the matter.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Police Command has appealed to the public for any additional information that could assist in the ongoing rescue efforts or the investigation.

The tragic incident has again raised concerns over the safety standards of water transport in Lagos, with many calling for stricter enforcement of maritime safety laws.