

WATER ACCIDENT | Sombre mood engulfs lakeshore village after tragedy

# Six fishermen drown as boat sinks in lake

One of the youth manages to swim to shore as leaders call for unit to enforce law on fishing age

BY NATION TEAM

newsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Six young fishermen died when their boat sank in Lake Victoria on Saturday night.

The six were in a group of seven youngsters who were fishing near Bumbe beach when the boat started leaking and sunk in the 7.30pm incident.

One youth managed to swim to the shore and was the only survivor.

A visibly shaken Baraka Mugeni, 16, told reporters that the occupants of the boat were unable to scoop out the water seeping through the vessel and it started submerging.

"It happened so fast. I jumped out of the boat and

## ACCIDENTS

## Vessels that have sank

**February 8:** Two people headed to Remba drown after their boat capsizes.

**September 4:** Six fishermen die when their boat is attacked by a hippopotamus off Goye Beach.

**September 11:** Two people drown in near Misori beach.

**October 1:** Thirteen trapped for three days.

when I looked back I saw five of my colleagues sinking. The other clung to the vessel as it went under," he said.

"I urged him to swim to the shore but he said he did not know how to swim. Instead he asked me to go and call for help. I swam to the shore and called for help but when we returned, he had drowned," he added.

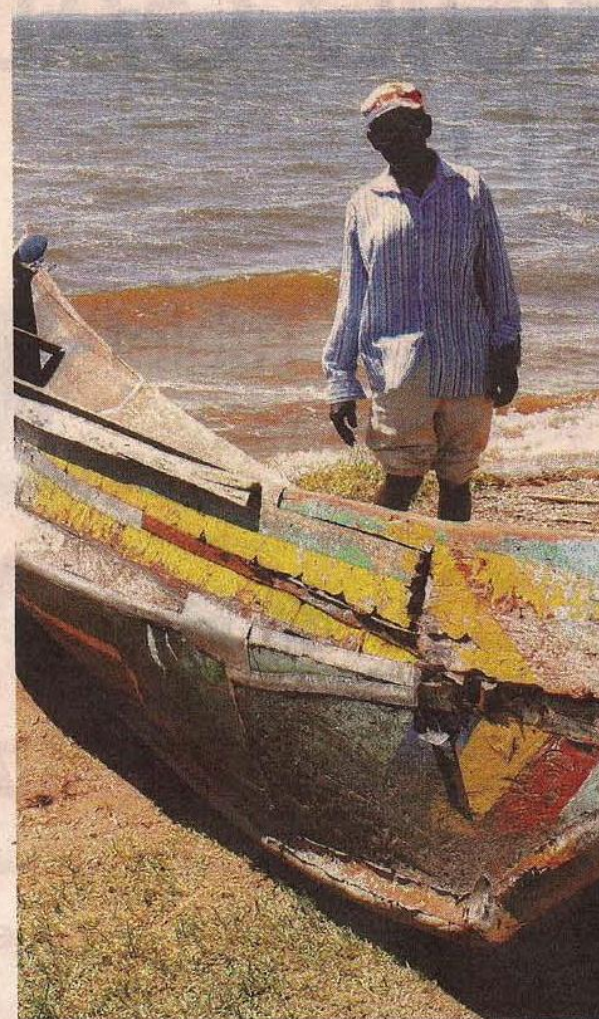
Some of the victims' bodies were still lying on the shore of the lake awaiting to be transported to the mortuary while four bodies had already been removed even as relatives and friends mourned their beloved ones.

A sombre mood engulfed Bwiri location in Samia district, Busia County where most of the fishermen, who were between the ages of 16 to 21, hailed from.

According to village elder Boniface Okello, the victims were all local boys from Bwiri location.

Leaders led by Local Government Minister Paul Otuoma, area councillor David Okado and Samia south ward civic leader Camulus Obada visited the scene and pledged to buy coffins to bury the dead. They blamed the local beach management unit for the accident saying it did not enforce rules that ban minors from fishing.

Reported by Linet Wafula, Justus Wanga and Everline Okewo



JACOB OWITI | NATION

A resident looks at the boat that sank on Saturday night, killing six of the seven fishermen in it.

## UN praises Kenya over food security

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY  
New York

Kenya is making "impressive progress" in recovering from a food crisis in parts of the country, the United Nations has said.

The UN made the announcement on Friday as it launched an appeal for "life-saving assistance" for 2.7 million Kenyans and refugees.

The UN asked donors to provide Kenya with \$743 million (Sh63.9 billion) in food, water, health, housing and education aid in the coming year.

The figure is about \$50 million (Sh4.3 billion) less than the UN sought last year in relief funding for Kenya.

### Easing of drought

The easing of drought following the 2011 short rains and the 2012 long rains has reduced the number of food-insecure Kenyans to 2.1 million from 3.8 million at the beginning of this year, the UN reported.

"It is expected that the current short rains season will further improve food security conditions," the UN's Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs added in its 2013 *Consolidated Appeals* document. Violence in northern Kenya continues to cause concern, said the report.