

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 21 (Infosplusgabon) - Several people are feared to have drowned after a ferryboat on which they were travelling between islands in Tanzania's Lake Victoria capsized on Thursday afternoon, the state-run Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) television announced.

Rescuers, including divers and personnel of the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) were rushed to the scene of the accident. Rescue efforts were still underway until evening hours.

Reports from the area, between Ukara Island and the bigger island of Ukerewe, said the fateful ferry known as MV Nyerere was overloaded with cargo and passengers. It is believed at the time of the accident the boat carried over one hundred people in addition to loads of maize and cement.

It was a local market day on one of the islands. Such weekly markets attract many people and offer almost everything they need in daily life including clothes, shoes, domestic appliances and homegrown remedies.

According to TBC's late bulletin, people seeking to know the fate of their relatives and friends after the accident gathered at the main port of Mwanza on the southern shores of the lake. They asked questions as much as the doubts shown on their gloomy faces.

The national broadcaster said that overweight of cargo and passengers was suspected to be cause of the accident.

A similar accident occurred in 1996 when a passenger ship sank on Lake Victoria close to Mwanza port with hundreds of passengers on board. Some were rescued and hundreds of bodies were recovered.

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