

Missing yacht found 6 months on



TRAGIC FIND: The yacht Moquini lies capsized in the Indian Ocean.

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The yacht Moquini found this week after being missing for six months probably capsized, giving its crew little chance of survival.

“With the keel missing, the yacht would have immediately inverted 90 degrees.

“Anyone on deck would have been flung into the water,” Matthew Thomas, a searcher, said yesterday.

He headed the private search for the yacht when it went missing during the Mauritius-to-Durban yacht race in September last year. Its six crew have still not been found.

Thomas also said he doubted the men would have had time to pull out a life raft and said even with their lifejackets on it would have been almost impossible for them to stay close to the boat as there would have been nothing for them to hold

on to on a slippery hull.

“Anyone down below would have had little time to evacuate, and if they had been asleep in a bunk, may well have been badly injured.”

A ship spotted the yacht on Sunday, floating upside-down and without a keel 500 nautical miles off the Wild Coast.

Whether the keel came off when the Moquini hit something, or whether it was the result of a “cat-

astrophic failure”, would be investigated, Thomas said.

A single blip from the yacht’s emergency position indicating radio beacon was transmitted on September 16.

The yacht’s crew were Graham Cochrane, Neil Tocknell, Kurt Ostendorf, Sheldon Dickerson, Mark Dickerson and Michael Goolam.

The families broke down in tears yesterday at the news. – **Sapa**