

Varsity students protest as trailer crushes colleague

From **Gordi Udeajah**, Umuahia

STUDENTS of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia State, yesterday, protested against the poor state of the Umuahia/Ikot Ekpene road.

The action followed the death of one Miss Chidinma Ogbonna, a final year student of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, who was reportedly crushed to death

by a trailer on Sunday.

The tragedy took place 7:00 p.m., near a timber market, two kilometres from the institution.

Carrying placards showing their grievances, the protesters marched about 10 kilometres from the institution to Government House, Umuahia, where they issued Governor Okezie Ikpeazu a four-day ultimatum to fix the

road. The aggrieved students also stopped the flow of traffic for several hours.

Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Chris Ezem, who received them, expressed the sympathy of his principal on Miss Ogbonna's death, saying the governor would look into the matter.

Also, commiserating with the students and commending them for protesting peace-

fully, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, regretted that many pleas and efforts made by the university for the rehabilitation of the road were yet to yield results.

He said he personally delivered a letter to the Federal Emergency Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) in Abuja, calling for the repair of the road.