

② Enugu varsity confirms death of six students, denies strange sickness

From **Lawrence Njoku**, Enugu

THE Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) has confirmed the death of six students in the school contrary to reports that 13 stu-

dents died from strange illnesses in recent months. Recall that a segment of the students had called for closure of the institution as a result of the incident, blaming the development on poor

management.

But the institution, in a statement, by its Director of Public Relations, Ikechukwu Ezeanioma, described such reports as 'spurious, fallacious, unfounded and ten-

dentious at tarnishing the image of the university and Enugu State as a whole.'

Ezeanioma said the six students who died recently were as a result of independent cases, adding that save for one incident, the rest of the deaths occurred outside the four walls of the university.

He also said contrary to the fake news reports, which claimed that the students died due to the negligence of the University's Medical Centre, no student died in the medical facility, since the inception of the current Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Aloysius-Michaels Okolie, a year ago. "Though it is regrettable that ESUT

lost six students to the cold hands of death in different circumstances and locations outside the University environment, including road accidents and suspected generator gas emission, within the last few months, it is mischievous to label death caused by these accidents or caused by terminal sickness as mysterious.

"It is also instructive to note that apart from one of the six students, the rest were off-campus residents.

"Moreover, the University Medical Centre under the current management had received a big boost in infrastructure development, personnel size, and medicare under a competent team led by a qualified Medical Director, Dr. Njideka Ken Njoku. "ESUT Management remains thankful to the Executive Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, for his proactive and timely intervention in the matter," he added.

