

## Outrage in Ebonyi over death of former university union leader

**T**HERE is outrage in Ebonyi State over the death of a former President of Law Students Association of Ebonyi State University (EBSU), Miss Nwusukir Dorathy Akuchi.

Miss Akuchi, who was the first female president of the EBSU Chapter of the Law Students' Association of Nigeria (LAWSAN), died in an accident on May 2.

She was said to be on her way to the Nigerian Law School Lagos when she died in a fatal auto crash.

Her death threw the entire student community in the state into mourning.

The mourning soon turned to anger as it was revealed that she was on her way to write her final bar exam which she was prevented from writing a few years ago following a petition from some of her colleagues accusing her of embezzlement of union funds.

One of her friends, Joebliss Nnamdi Ekechi, alleged that the writers of the petition were people she had not allowed to embezzle the funds she raised for the association's annual dinner.

He said that after she refused and instead deployed all the money raised to stage the best dinner in 2021, the same individuals wrote series of petition to faculty and school management.

Despite all their plans she was able to enroll in the Nigerian Law School but some of her enemies, allegedly including some lecturers whose sexual advances she allegedly turned down, saw to it that she did not make first class which she was on course to making on graduation from the faculty.

Not done, her detractors allegedly wrote another petition to the Nigerian Law School. So on the day she was supposed to sit for her bar finals, she was called out of the hall and told she was disqualified on the basis of the petition.

"Eventually, Dora lost the chance to sit for her exams with her mates that year. She was not called to the Nigerian Bar and was not also sure of re-sitting the exams since her petitioners sought her expulsion from the Nigerian Law School," Ekechi said.

She was said to have gone into depression at some point due to the ordeal she was made to pass

From Ogochukwu Anioke, Abakaliki

through.

It was while she was on her way to the Lagos Campus of the Nigerian Law School to re-sit her final bar exams after years of investigation and query that she died.

Following reports of her death, students and all her friends and acquaintances have called for a probe of all the people involved in the petitions.

They argued that she would not have been involved in the accident if she had written her final bar exams at the time her colleagues did and graduated.

Meanwhile, a group, Forum of Concerned Comrades, has written a petition to the University Management, demanding a probe into the circumstances surrounding her death.

The group called for the setting up of a joint panel of management and students to review the multiple actions that led to her death and to particularly find out the true events that led to her depression.

Other demands by the group include immediate withdrawal of the certificates of the eight students who were signatories to the contentious petition that led to her ordeal until the investigation is carried out.

The group also demanded a befitting burial for her to be sponsored by the school management "The panel which the Management shall set up shall dig deep into fishing out some unscrupulous lecturers who are fingered as being the masterminds of this injustice," they said.

They warned that if their demands were not attended to, they would be left with no option but to name the said lecturers and declare them persona non grata across all institutions of higher and lower learning in Ebonyi State.

They gave the school management 72 hours to initiate the said actions demanded or be ready to face the wrath of the entire students' body in the state.

They school management could not be reached for comments at press time.



•The late Akuchi