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UNIUYO 5: NANS blames FG, VC over death of colleagues

Written by Ebenezer Adurokiya-Warri | Friday, 21 June 2013 01:01 | font size | Print | Email

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NATIONAL Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has blamed the Federal Government over the accident that claimed the lives of five students of the University of Calabar, Uyo, alleging that the Federal Government is insensitive to the plight of the Nigerian masses.

The body, besides chiding the Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo for injecting an obnoxious policy in the institution which, it alleged, led to the crisis that claimed the lives of NANS Senate President, Donald Onukaogu and four others, while on their way to mediate on the imbroglio, requested that he be relieved of his job.

Speaking with newsmen when he led a delegation of the association on a condolence visit to the family of one of the deceased, Mr Asa Ejeta, in Ughelli, Delta State, NANS President, Mr Yinka Gbadebo, said it was the actions and inactions of governments and anti-students policies by management of institutions that usually spurred students to embark on protests.

He described the death of the students as pathetic and the saddest moment in the history of the students' association, saying, "this is the first time NANS is losing five of its members, who are committed to the struggle of the emancipation of the Nigerian students."

Gbadebo, who decried the unnecessary sharp bend and numerous potholes at the scene of the accident, which he said led to the head-on collision between the bus conveying the students and an oncoming truck, said: "We discovered that the road project had been awarded a year ago. It is an abandoned Federal Government's project. We equally saw another accident in that spot; so the road has been claiming the lives of so many people.

We want to call on the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, bring back the contractor to that road and commence repairs.

"Equally, if the VC of the University of Uyo had not introduced an obnoxious policy that the students were fighting against, the Senate President and others would not have found reasons to travel to Uyo. So, it was a problem that was caused by the VC, members of the Nigeria Police, who came and shot at our students, killing one, that led to the journey which they took and today, they are no more," Mr Gbadebo reiterated.

"I want to use this opportunity to call for the immediate removal of the VC of the University of Uyo and the commencement of immediate action against the police in Akwa Ibom State. Now, I have received another sad news that police have shot two of our students dead at the Lagos State College of Primary Education.

"Today, they will say they are protecting the lives and property of Nigerians. We are declaring the police enemy number one of Nigerian students," Mr Gbadebo reiterated.

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