

# Students protest accidents in Akungba

• School management postpones exams • Akeredolu sympathises with victim's family, school authorities

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**S**TUDENTS of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo state took to the street on Friday, protesting over the incessant road accidents in the University community which had resulted in the death of many students of the institution.

The students who converged on the road as early as 8am following the killing of a former student of the school identified as Michael by an articulated truck on Thursday evening in the town.

The students were infuriated by the attitude of the hit-and-run truck driver who killed the man but refused to wait but was trailed to neighbouring Oba-Akoko, where he was arrested around 10pm on Thursday night.

The students blocked the major road of the town, chanting solidarity songs and hindering vehicular movements within the town for many hours.

The development however, led to the postponement of the ongoing first semester examinations, while the school management also expressed concern over the incessant rate of accidents claiming the lives of students of the university.

A statement by the school management reads:

"In view of the accident that claimed the life of a former student late evening of yesterday, Thursday, 3rd February, 2022, management has decided to postpone today's examinations.

"This is to honour the departed soul. A new date for the examinations will be announced later.

"The Management is currently engaging all relevant stakeholders on what should be done to address the ugly trend, and put an end to vehicular accidents in the university town."

Meanwhile, the state government has sympathized with the family of the victim and the school authorities

over the ugly incident.

In a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary, (CPS) Richard Olatunde, the governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, said "the incident was not expected given the steps that had been taken to forestall such occurrence after the incessant accidents that had claimed indigenes and students lives in the past.

"In clear terms, Governor Akeredolu had ordered that a barricade be mounted at the troubled portion of the road to prevent heavy duty trucks from plying that route."

Akeredolu, while commiserating with the people of Akungba Akoko as well as the family of the victims, expressed disappointment over people's penchant for money over lives.

"It is disheartening that some people have turned the barricade mounted by government to prevent these heavy trucks from plying the road, into a money-making venture.

"If people truly value lives, and understand that whatever money you made at the ex-

pense of people's lives is blood money. This particular incident was highly avoidable.

"On several occasions, I have visited Akungba Akoko on the heels of incessant accidents. As part of our temporary solution to the situation, a barricade was mounted. It was expected that no heavy duty vehicle would ply that road again.

"However, we have received reports that some residents of the town open this barricade for heavy duty trucks to pass for a token."

The governor, therefore, warned all community leaders, youth leaders or representatives, and other residents of the town to immediately desist from the unwholesome act of flouting the governor's directive by opening this barricade for articulated trucks.

Akeredolu said "government will henceforth, deploy armed security personnel to man this barricade and deal decisively with anyone found opening this barricade for articulated trucks."

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## FFCC seeks court's order for final forfeiture of Darive's assets to FG