

Senator's Son Dies During Demonstration

JUDE ORJI/Enugu

The violent demonstration by students of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Agbani, Enugu State, has claimed the life of a first year student of Microbiology Department, Victor Mgbefiofor, son of Second Republic Senator, Sydney Mgbefiofor of Enugu.

The death of the young man was disclosed to *P.M.NEWS* when the 27 students arrested over the demonstration were paraded at the Police Headquarters, Enugu.

Another student, whose identity was not yet known, was also reported killed by the police.

The students alleged that the police opened fire on them, using tear gas, despite all entreaties by some leaders in the area not to escalate the protest.

Briefing newsmen, ACP Isaac Akinmoyede, accused the students of engaging in violent demonstration, malicious damage and stealing of public utilities on 16 November at the Presidential and Bisalla roads in the state capital.

Items allegedly damaged by the students include five poles of street light, Zenith Bank bill board, bus stop signpost stands, dustbin stands located at Bisalla Road and Presidential Road junctions and vehicle wind-screens.

ACP Akinmoyede denied knowledge of the two students allegedly shot dead by his men.

He said that his men tried to stop the students at Okpara

Square on their way to Government House, but failed. According to him, the unrest started last Thursday when the students blocked the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway for several hours.

Speaking to *P.M.NEWS*, Emmanuel Agbo, a final year student of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Secretary General, League of Secretaries of the university, decried the insecurity and corruption in the institution, adding that the school has no academic calendar.

He explained that it takes six to seven years to complete a five-year programme and declared that several students, while rushing to take emergency examinations, due to incessant strikes, have died in accidents.

P.M.NEWS gathered that the current face-off between the students and the authorities of the institution was due to the inability of the Vice Chancellor, Joseph Chukwudobem, to pay staff their two months salaries after returning to work as negotiated. Instead, the VC told journalists that he had paid them, thereby forcing workers to resume their strike.

Agbo said immediately students were called back from the six-months ASUU, SSANU and NASU strike for nonpayment of salary arrears, they were asked to sit for their examinations without any lecture.

He blamed the crisis on the failure of Governor Sullivan Chime to address the protracted face-off between the VC and the staff.

Part of the allegations as con-

tained in a petition forwarded to EFCC by the labour unions on campus reads: "We have the mandate of our unions to write and seek your intervention in the massive looting, conversion and stealing of public fund in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, by the principal officers of the university."

Responding to the crisis rocking the institution, Barrister Chukwudi Achife, Senior Special Assistant to Governor Chime on Media, expressed the

governor's dissatisfaction with the development in the institution, but suspected hidden motives, most likely political in the crisis.

The governor's aide warned people manipulating the situation to desist from doing so, or face the wrath of law.

"Government is negotiating with unions to restore normalcy. It is wrong to take laws into one's hand. Those destroying property may not be students after all," he added.

Wema Bank To Sell UTME Forms

Wema Bank Plc has been appointed by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Examinations Board (JAMB) to sell its newly introduced online Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) application forms.

The UTME is the only examination to be conducted by JAMB once in a year for candidates seeking admission into Nigerian universities, polytechnics, monotechnics and colleges of education.

The UTME replaces the Universities Matriculation Examination (UME) and Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination (PCE).

A statement issued by the Corporate Communications Department stated that the Bank is among the few banks selected by the University Admission

Board to sell the new UTME forms based on its track record in the sales of educational application forms and collection of government revenues.

The statement, signed by the acting Head of Corporate Communications Department, Mr. Bisi Onanuga, disclosed that the UTME forms are available for sale to applicants at the rate of N4,600 at all branches of the bank nationwide.

The statement assured applicants of a hitch free sale of the forms as the bank has put in place adequate measures to ensure an efficient service delivery.

Wema Bank is a key player in the sales of application forms and revenue collection as it has been foremost in collection of various taxes, rates and bills for federal, states and local governments, tuition and sales of WAEC, NECO and JAMB forms.