

Education Review / **CAMPUS SUN**

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**D**eath unleashed its fury on Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka during the strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). Six members of the community, mostly students died within five months.

First was Mr. Peter Ebere from Sociology Department, whose tragic death was preceded by that of Mr. Nabena Ebikibuna Cyril from the department of Geology, who was electrocuted.

This was followed by the death of Miss Onyinye Anaeto, a 200 level student of History and International Studies. Yet to recover from these sad news came sad news of the death of Miss Onyinyechi Madubuko, a final year student in Psychology department.

Few weeks later, Miss Elizabeth Akubilo, a 100 level diploma student in the Department of Mass Communication died. Also, Mr. Okafor Emmanuel Obiano, a 100 level student of Theater Arts department kicked the bucket, tearing the already wounded hearts of staff and students to shreds.

## Ogunlewe denies rift with FUNAAB VC

**T**he Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, has refuted a recent media report speculating a clash of interest between members of the Council and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olusola Oyewole.

The denial followed a report titled 'Ogunlewe, VC clash over

# See what ASUU strike did to UNIZIK

## ■ Six die within 5 months

This is certainly not the best of times for the students of the university. The joy that would have come with the suspension of the five-month strike has suddenly been drowned by wailing. Majority of the students believe strongly that most of these deaths could have been averted if ASUU had not gone on the prolonged strike.

Recall that it came as a shocker when the news of an impending industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) filtered the air. Many dismissed it without much ado owing to the glaring fact that the school had for many years enjoyed an uninterrupted academic calendar even when the lecturers in time past engaged in industrial action.

Many were of the opinion that the second semester examination, which had already been scheduled prior to the commencement of the strike action would be completed before the ASUU-NAU join their counterparts in the struggle.

This became an issue of dispute in ASUU-NAU chapter, as some were of the opinion that the already scheduled examinations should hold. Others voted for the union to join forces with the national body in the struggle. This led to a factionalized ASUU-NAU, giving birth to a group known as the ASUU Progressives, who canvassed for the completion of the exams before the strike.

This led to a fight between the ASUU-NAU and the university's management. Like the proverbial saying, when two elephants fight, the grasses bear the brunt, the students were the worst hit as some of them couldn't write their exams after so much preparation.

Some departments organized examination for their students while some didn't. Members of the fractionalized ASUU Progressives participated in the conduct and supervision of the examination while their counterparts didn't. The institution's management was also af-

• Onyinye



• Anaeto



• Ebere



fects as the jinx of the age-long uninterrupted academic calendar was on the verge of collapse.

Not quite long, the institution defied the ASUU strike and went ahead in the conduct of her post UTME exercise and subsequently offered admission to students.

The final year students could be said to be the worst hit as majority of them missed the NYSC programme owing to the fact that most of them are yet to graduate as a result of unfinished examination.

Most of the students complained bitterly with regards to their rents which is tantamount to buying a car and not making use of it.

The traders, commercial bus drivers, businessmen and women who ply their trade within and around the school are not left out as it has affected their business negatively.

The proverbial last straw that broke the camel's back is the news that kept creeping in almost on a

• Obiano



• Akubilo



weekly basis on the tragic demise of some students of the institution. Suffice it to say that within this period of the industrial action, the school has lost not less than seven of her students in manners which

according to most students could have been averted if the school had not gone on strike.

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