

Two Benue Poly Students Die During Protest

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Two students of the Fidei Polytechnic, Gboko, Benue State, were yesterday killed, many others wounded and property worth millions of naira destroyed when crisis erupted in the institution. The bursary, bakery, the ranch and a penthouse, among other property were destroyed in the crisis.

Trouble started when the students were sitting for their semester examination. Sources said most of the final year students who had not paid their fees were

barred from sitting for the examination.

Miffed by this development, the students staged a peaceful protest over the directive issued by the school authorities as well as the delay in the issuance of examination permit.

It was learnt that the arrival of policemen at the scene worsened things as they started firing canisters of tear gas and shooting sporadically. In the process, a student was hit in the chest and died instantly while another died at the hospital.

It was learnt that as the crisis raged on, hoodlums known as “Shawa,” invaded the institution to engage the students in a fight. The students, however, overpowered the hoodlums. The management of the institution later announced outright cancellation of the examination.

Angered by the cancellation, the students regrouped and embarked on massive destruction of property in the polytechnic.

When contacted, the Rector, Ugo Abah, said he was on his way to police headquarters in Makurdi to lay a formal complaint.

But the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Moses Yamu, said miscreants and students overpowered policemen during a peaceful protest in the institution, injured two policemen and damaged six vehicles, one of which was a police van. He dismissed allegation that police killed one person.

The PPRO, however, said that 21 persons had so far been arrested. Meanwhile, at press time, news filtered in that the state government had ordered the