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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Two Killed in Students' Riot Over Neco Exams

21 May 2009

Lagos — Two students yesterday died following a students' unrest at the Government Secondary School, Wayar' Makafi in Bauchi metropolis.

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The Commissioner for Education, Alhaji Yusuf Gumli, confirmed the death at a news conference in Bauchi. Gumli said that the unrest followed alleged replacement of genuine candidates with external candidates in the on-going National Examination Council (NECO) examination by the school authority.

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He said that the state government had ordered the immediate closure of the school and set up a committee to probe the crisis."

The committee is mandated to investigate the crisis and submit its report within 48 hours."

All the culprits will be brought to book," Gumli said, adding that the state government would not relent in its effort to protect lives and property in the state.

The commissioner urged parents to ensure proper upbringing of their children and advised students not to allow themselves to be used by self-seeking politicians to foment trouble. Head Student of the school, Malam Faisal Ishaq, told NAN that the students were on a peaceful protest when a detachment of anti-riot policemen deployed to the school fired teargas at them.

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Ishaq said that the police also fired several shots, which caused the death of two students. However, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the Police Command in Bauchi, ASP Muhammad Barau, said that one life was lost in the unrest.

Barau said that the corpse of the deceased was deposited at the mortuary of the Specialist Hospital, Bauchi.'

We have not received a comprehensive report on the incident and as such we do not have details of the number of arrest or casualties," Barau said, adding that the situation had been put under control.

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