

# Schoolboy beaten for taking part in demonstration'

Herald Reporter

A SIXTH former at Eaglesvale Secondary School in Harare, Shephard Mangaza, claims he was assaulted by a classmate on Wednesday after allegedly being accused of participating in the violent demonstration by University of Zimbabwe students on Tuesday.

The incident has sparked off discontent among black pupils who have expressed their dissatisfaction at the way they are being treated at the school.

Mangaza told The Herald: "I failed to report to school on Tuesday since I was attending my relative's funeral. On Wednesday I was late and arrived at 10 am. Having been out of town, I was told that there had been a violent demonstration the previous day to mourn President Machel of Mozambique.

"A white classmate asked me whether I was at the riot the previous day. I told him I did not know what he was talking about as I had been out of town."

After a verbal exchange the white student allegedly struck Mangaza three blows on the eye. "I did not hit back for fear of victimising myself. I knew I would get into trouble if I fought back."

Mangaza said he reported the assault to the headmaster's office.

"I told the headmaster about the assault and he advised me to go and sleep in the hostel. No disciplinary action was taken against the assailant," he claimed.

A relative confirmed that the boy had to be rushed to Parirenyatwa Hospital for treatment after the assault. Mangaza's eye was bandaged as he spoke to The Herald on Friday.

Asked for comment, the school headmaster said what transpired at the school had nothing to do with The Herald. "This is a school matter. The boy who assaulted another student was disciplined."

He refused to give details as to what steps the school had taken.