



(6) Owen Horwood

Owen Pieter Faure Horwood (1917–1998)

Former Principal of the University of Natal Owen Horwood died suddenly in Stellenbosch on 13 September 1998 at the age of 81. He apparently suffered a heart attack. He was on his way to lunch with his wife when he suddenly became ill. He was taken to hospital in Stellenbosch, and died shortly after being admitted.

The apartheid-era finance minister was also National Party leader in Natal for 12 years. He retired from politics in 1983 and moved from Gauteng to Stellenbosch during 1997. He was professor of economics on the Durban campus of the university and became principal and vice-chancellor from 1965. He was also an adviser on economic affairs to the government of Lesotho.

In 1970 he resigned from the university to take up a seat as a Natal-based senator. The then prime minister B.J. Vorster appointed him to the cabinet as minister of tourism and Indian affairs in 1972. He was elected leader of the National Party in Natal and held that position until 1984. In 1974 he was appointed minister of trade and industry, and in February 1995 minister of finance. On his retirement from politics he held the position of executive chairman of Nedbank until 1993.

Horwood's principalship of the university was marked by growing tension between himself and a staff and student body who rejected his pro-government stance.

*(Adapted from material provided by the
University of Natal's media relations department.)*