

also be able to continue with Obasanjo's reform programmes. "Nigerians should ensure that

world will allow a group to cause instability."

role as a stabilizer in Nigerian project.

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and the government has been responsible for disturbances.

Meanwhile, Anambra State governor, Mr. Peter Obi, yesterday imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Onitsha, to forestall further loss of lives and properties following clashes between the Nigeria Police, Members of National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and Members of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB).

A wave of attacks hit Onitsha, the commercial nerve centre of the East, following alleged battle for the control of lucrative motor parks that dot the town by NARTO and MASSOB members.

Disturbed by renewed hostilities, however, Obi had Saturday outlawed both organisations in Onitsha, and called on the Federal Government to intervene.

As a major step to stemming the rising tension in the area, Governor Obi, yesterday imposed the curfew for one week on the order of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Addressing a press conference for the second time in two days, at Government House, Awka, Governor Obi who literally wept at the level of destruction at the weekend said the dusk to dawn curfew will run from Sunday June 18, to Saturday June 24, beginning each day at 7 pm and ending the next day at 6 am.

"As I said in my broadcast yesterday, I duly briefed His Excellency President Obasanjo, on the situation in Onitsha. The President telephoned me the moment he arrived Nigeria, yesterday (Sunday), and was fully briefed. True to his promise, the president immediately and graciously took necessary actions. In addition, a dusk to dawn curfew is hereby imposed

MASSOB

on Onitsha for one week. This curfew will run from Sunday June 18, to Saturday June 24, beginning each day at 7pm and ending the next day at 6am", he stressed.

He hinted that the state government will this week continue to meet with various stakeholders and the security agencies on ways to ensure lasting peace and a cordial environment for people to go about their lawful endeavours unmolested.

He appealed to the miscreants, attempting to disrupt Anambra's peace to desist as his government will not be intimidated.

While thanking Anambrians for remaining calm and law abiding, the governor urged parents and guardians to advise their wards to desist from actions that can only earn them unpleasant consequences as the peace in Anambra can not be negotiated by anybody or group even as he pointed out that his government is doing everything possible to ensure that normalcy returns to Onitsha.

Already, a joint army and police special squad has taken over Onitsha to ensure peace and normalcy supercedes with residents already complaining of extortion by them.

Speaking on behalf of the residents when Governor Obi visited the burnt police station and Owerri road where Amboured Personnel Carrier (APC) and Tata police van were burnt, an eyewitness driver and resident Mr Ikwuka Ofia indicted the mobile police men attached to NARTO group for aiding and abetting the perpetuating of crime and destruction to the centre of wealth, Onitsha, in Anambra state.

Hear him, "There is nothing MASSOB did. It is the NARTO with the mobile police attached to them that are causing this havoc. It was NARTO that killed three people at Ezeiweka and burnt two persons. If you go to Okpoko now, you will cry at the level of destruction of people's properties by the group. They are quarreling over parks. NARTO killed all. We are begging Mr President to remove NARTO from our parks. They are causing this havoc in Onitsha."

At Three Three police divisional headquarters Onitsha which was burnt, ASP Ikechukwu Egbochukwu who relieved the Governor on behalf of DPO Charles Nwabugwu told the Governor that their one year office complex was burnt and two people in police cell.

Anambra State police command did not disclose the number of either MASSOB or NARTO in their detention as the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Fidelis Agbo told *Daily Champion* that he will brief it at a later day on the developments at Onitsha.

Reacting Area Administrator MASSOB, Onitsha zone, Comrade Edison accused the police of witchhunting and humiliating innocent citizens who have nothing to do with MASSOB pointing out that the raid last weekend by the police left seven of their members dead and over 50 arrested at Nkpikpa forest where they were having their meeting.

Comrade Edison wondered why the police should be looking for harmless and peaceful agitators with all the ammunition in the country when armed robbers have their field day in broad day lights unchallenged and accused the Federal Government of a calculated attempt to wipe out the Igbo in the name of MASSOB.

G deploys Onitsha



g Director/CEO, Dr (Mrs) Cecilia Ibru receiving America's premier
"Business Negotiation and Persuasion" for senior management staff of

ons other transition

statesmanship, which might have been undreamt of before for the sake of democratic sustenance, stressing that it would be in everybody's interest if democracy was sustained in the country.

The PDP scribe said though transitions in Nigeria had been tumultuous, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as a military head of state successfully handed over

to ex-President Shehu Shagari in 1979.

He said: "We are faced with a wonderful, exciting and a dangerous prospect of a democratic transition, which if we do it right, we would have, for the first time in Nigeria's history, achieved a transition from

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Gov Obi imposes curfew

ALPHONSUS NWEZE Onitsha
and ODOGWU EMEKA, Awka

FEDERAL Government has deployed soldiers to take over security in Onitsha, the Anambra State commercial hub, just as the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) has dismissed its ban by the state Governor Peter Obi.

Stern-looking and combat ready soldiers, from 302 Artillery Regiment, Onitsha were seen at the Upper Iweka and Bridgehead providing security in Onitsha yesterday.

The soldiers, who were seen in three trucks, were said to have been posted to strategic places in Onitsha, following the ban on MASSOB and National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), weekend by Governor Obi.

But MASSOB deputy director, information, Mazi Chris Mocha, dismissed the ban on MASSOB, saying that this is not the first ban on the movement.

He said MASSOB will wax stronger with this ban since they are non-violent, arguing that self-determination is enshrined in the United Nations' charter.

Mocha denied that MASSOB engaged in the burning of Police Station and vehicles, alleging that NARTO backed by Police

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