VOLUME 18. NO. 27

Onitsha mayhem: 出出出 CCICI XI

House-to-house search for members

It's not true —Police

Cov. Obi begs fleeing residents to return

M80

ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha, ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU, Awka

OVEMENT for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Blafra (MASSOB) has alleged extra-judicial killings of its members by security operatives posted to Onitsha, Anambra State to keep the peace following the bloody clash between the militia group and the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO).

MASSOB made this allegation just as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state absolved itself of complicity in the bloody crises which had claimed lives and property.

These came on the heels of fresh clashes in the commercial hub of the state weekend despite the expiration of the ultimatum given to both MASSOB and NARTO to leave Onitsha.

MASSOB, NARTO and Anambra Vigilance (AVS)ervice

Continued on page 2

Continued from Page 1

on its wake. control of motor parks in Onitsha, leading to sorrow, tears and blood have locked horns over the

government to maintain law in a shallow grave by the jo military/police team deployed group, Comrade Innocent Dike and last Thursday killed and buried that some of their members were Comrade David Mac David, alleged Eastern Region of the organization Assistant Director of Information, the spokesman of the

the Assistant Inspector General of But reacting swiftly to this, both

MASSOB alleges secret killings

describing these as the figment of MASSOB's imagination.

Comrade Dike further alleged military/police team Lt. Col. John Enenche, denied the allegations Ajakaiye and the leader of the joint

and towards Three. Three. into the river at the Head Bridge Awka, the state capital, mainly the that while those secretly killed in youths, were buried in a mass grave, hose killed in Onitsha were thrown

According to him, the mobile

to unleash terror in Onitsha, the commercial hub of Anambra policemen allegedly gave their uniforms to the NARTO boys of innocent people in the name of led to the mass arrest and killing State, a development, he claimed

outsmart the conspiracy against were left to go about their business, vowing that "MASSOB will fight members allegedly creating tension back at the appropriate time to He said the real NARTO

exterminated in attempt to search for MASSOB members

BRIEFING – (I-r) Mr. Ikechukwu Kalu, Senior Manager Mass Market with Mrs. Funmi Omog-benigun, Senior Manager Corporate Communications and Mr. Victor Okechukwu, Senior Manager Sales & Distribution, Lagos/South West at MTN Nigeria press briefing to launch Caller Tunez' service in Lagos

the state government military and police, NARTO and our members by the joint team of that their shops were looted by the

Onwunna, who spoke with Sunday Champion lamented: "I am the policemen are doing in Onitsha surprised with what the soldiers and without any intervention. An eye witness, Mrs. Kate

They stop passengers, extort money from them and carry the male passengers to an unknown destination. They have killed many others into the river. they kill in a mass grave, throw and raped our girls. They bury those

in before I became a victim," Mrs. tor. I escaped by whiskers. I jumped uniform to. The crisis is uncalled boys who the police gave their Onwunna further claimed. "The issue is NARTO and Esele

South local government area include, Samson Nwadi, Chinasa Onwa, Somtochukwu Okpe, and Ikechukwu Okereke, Fegge, Onitsha own account, people kill**ed** South local government area. operatives Comrade 5 n his it, claimed that the d by the security Fegge, Onitsha

alleging that Igbo youths are being on the residents on daily basis, death and terror being unleashed Akpaka Forest Reserve. Ebere, Harrison Udo, Hyacinth Others, he said, include, Chinedu Ikengwu, Onyinyechi has turned into war zone with gwu and Okechukwu Nnanna in He lamented that Onitsha

Atta and Uke streets in Nkpor area of Onitsha where a fresh both MASSOB, NARTO and AVS combed the area from house to and policemen cordoned off and like a theatre of war as soldiers clash erupted yesterday, house in search of the members of

and fled the troubled areas claimed Traders who locked their shops

tattoos in any part of their bodies. arrested young men who and policemen, who also allegedly came under siege by the soldiers all regge were not spared as they Ofili, Oraukwu and Ozubulu streets security operatives. Port Harcourt road, Ukpor

true, unfounded and baseless. saying the MASSOB claims against Reacting to these, AIG zone 9, Mr. Ajakaiye, denied the allegations, the security operatives were not

Champion in Onitsha last Friday were getting out of hand, stated these while speaking with Sunday Onitsha when the bloody clashes Mr. Ajakaiye, who relocated to

property worth several millions of involved in the civil disturbances which had claimed lives and members nor Chief Uba, was Ajakaiye said neither NARTO

know. Probably, includes some is for everybody to know who is course, the reason for investigation If investigations lead to him, of NARTO. Nobody has said that that we have arrested in our raid, nobody has said he is a member money and they said Onitsha, the whole Biafran land. Those we was that NARTO was causing the to Onitsha, the report I was getting isn't it," Ajakaiye stated. include some journalists, I don't MASSOB. MASSOB probably arrested that burnt the prison said mayhem. We went to their hiding policemen, investigation will show. they were NARTO, all the criminals them with Biafran tlags, That is doing this or doing that "Frankly speaking, when I came lhose we arrested we saw Biafran

people like that. Col. Enenche said there is nothing know that police don't just kill for further investigation, and was alleged since those arrested the joint military/police team, Lt. were handed over to the police Also in his reaction, leader of

were being looted during their He also denied that shops Anambra those involved Ohanaeze Ndigbo appealed to desist as 5

presidential amb has started particularly believe the various project he on the various areas he has excelled. think this is the kind of people the

men of integrity, men who are knowledgeable and principled, men general economy, stressing that "we must get average Nigerians back to the anti-corruption crusade and the President, he would improve He assured that if he is elected

operation are targeted at specific

A CONTRACTOR

operations, stating

that

corrupt leaders in the 2007 general has counselled Nigerians to reject PRESIDENTIAL hopeful and former Chief of General Staff

I will run. The question of whether I will accept being paired with him

"If he IBB runs for the presidency

(CGS) Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe

By BISIRIYU OLAOYE

envisaged a situation where he would be paired with his former boss General Ibrahim Babangida

(IBB), who is also gunning for the presidency in 2007.

007: Ukiwe declares

area of the economy and in the area of the image of the country of anti-corruption,

country needs," he added.

reports.

He called on Onitsha reside the villages earlier could now retu because normalcy has returned. any fear of molestation as there to go about their businesses with no need for people to relocate he villages rather those who ran also assured th

will also attract the wrath of the market vigilantes that have turne associations in Onitsha especia NARTO and other undesirable hemselves into terrorist

whatever way. where touts have continued to hold returned from Ekwuluobia, Igbo way, stressing that the operation deaded for the cooperation of all in Jkwu and some other town as been successful so far and He said that the team

and unfounded has described the rumour as talse as the Anambra State government neighbouring towns for safety even moved away enmasse to other Onitsha a ghost of itself as people military and police patrol has left hreat for tomorrow's bombing Meanwhile, Fegge, Onitsha by a joint the

offensive by the running NARTO grips the residents of any counter miscreants and hoodlums from drafted in the wake of the crises to parks in the state, palpable fear still estore law and order has recorded he state to ransom. nembers and other groups holding nuge success in flushing out the Even as the joint military police

to flee Onitsha to return to their deceived into fleeing or trying to talk of the military bombing noting that Onitsha is not under homes and stay for they are safe; Governor Peter Obi advised those any threat from any quarters not esterday on the he Government House Awka, Addressing a press conference rumour

government can function effectively the white paper on the past crises without fear or favour implement It called on Governor Peter Obi to in an atmosphere of lawlessness This is happening just as the anaeze Ndigbo appealed to all destabilizing