

# Onitsha: Abducted policeman killed

•Speaker explains crisis

ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha  
MANSUR OLADUNJOYE,  
KEMI ADEKUNLE, Lagos

**A** police sergeant abducted Sunday in Onitsha, Anambra State by miscreants has been killed, just as Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Mr. Mike Belonwu has blamed unending crisis in the state on "untouchables."

Anambra State, Police Commissioner, Mr. Haruna John confirmed the killing of the policeman, whose name he refused to disclose.

Mr. John said the deceased had a problem with his motorcycle and took it to a mechanic workshop where miscreants abducted him.

He claimed that on getting information on the abduction yesterday, his men moved into Silas Works Street, where the workshop is located only to find out that the sergeant had "been brutally killed."

Lamenting action of the miscreants, Mr. John said his men recovered locally made pistol, double barrel gun and two police boots at Silas Works, while noting that some people especially those living around the area had been arrested.

Three police officers, including an Assistance Superintendent of Police (ASP) attached to Three-Three Police Station, Onitsha were abducted



SULLIVAN SUMMIT... Former American President, Bill Clinton (l) who is in Abuja for the Sullivan Summit being received by President Olusegun Obasanjo during a courtesy visit to the State House yesterday.

Photo: STATE HOUSE

Medical, legal bills:

## I'm truly in trouble

— Alamiyeseigha

OLATUBOSUN SOWEMIMO

"MY medical bills are piling, and as each day passes, I wonder who is going to pay... if I am going to pay, then I am truly

in trouble."

With these words, Former Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Diepreye Alamiyeseigha

yesterday expressed his frustration with the current trial by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

He also denied sponsoring violence in the Niger Delta region, an allegation levelled

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last week but later released after a thorough beating.

But the seven Onitsha youths including their leader Sidney Igweike, abducted a fortnight ago were not as much lucky as they are yet to be released.

But the Assistant Director, Information, MASSOB, David Mac-David, denied their involvement in the abduction, killings and other criminal acts, stressing however that the movement may have been infiltrated by miscreants.

He said MASSOB will adopt fresh strategies to fish out fifth columnists that give the movement bad name.

But speaking shortly after meeting with his Lagos State counterpart, Mr. Adeyemi Ikuforiji in Lagos yesterday, Mr. Belonwu said the recent blood-letting in Onitsha was sponsored by a clique of untouchables in Anambra State.

"We have a group of people who think that they should have an unfettered access to the state treasury, they consider the state fund as their personal right.

"The summary of our problem in Anambra is our move to check this clique and put an end to their activities as well as recover all the money they have collected from the previous administrations, to the coffers of the state government," he said.

Belonwu, however, commended the boldness of Governor Peter Obi confronting the menace of godfatherism by working with Federal Government to arrest the ugly situation.

His words: "The governor has done a wonderful job by working with the Federal Government; we have been able

## Onitsha

to arrest the situation through a joint patrol by the military and the police to maintain law, peace and order in Anambra State."

Lamenting the havoc allegedly wrecked by National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) Belonwu claimed that "NARTO is controlled by the cliques who have held the state by the jugular for years, but we have arrested some culprits responsible for the terrorism.

Belonwu lampooned the clique further; "Having money does not mean that you are above the law. It does not give anyone the right not to recognize constituted authority, what we are doing now is laying the foundation for our future leaders that money is not everything.

"We are building for them a culture that honesty, integrity, good orientation and good character are everything desirable in life. We are also eliminating such things that could lead to this kind of thing in the future," he said

## FG okays conversion of rail system

### RAIL SYSTEM

**F**EDERAL Government yesterday approved the conversion of the country's rail network from the wide gauge to the standard gauge at initial cost of \$2.5 billion.

Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State made this known after the first meeting of Council of State this year in Abuja.

He told State House correspondents that the first phase of the conversion would be the Lagos-Kano rail line to be completed in about four years to be funded from a concessionary soft loan from China.

"Additional funding would be sourced internally to supplement the Chinese loan which would be spread to also fund the gigantic Mambilla power project in Taraba State, said the governor.

When the conversion is completed, according to him, the country could then afford to bring in trains that would

travel as fast as 150 kilometres per hour.

Minister of Education, Mrs. Oby Ezekwisi, also hinted that a Federal Teachers Scheme would be put in place to train teachers in the country to enhance quality and availability which she said were declining.

She said emphasis would be placed on sending the teachers to rural areas to address the inadequacies prevalent there.

Governor Obong Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom State said other issues considered by the council included the Heart of Nigeria and Destination Nigeria projects, national pensions reforms, Universal Basic Education, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) as well as appointments into the National

**N**O fewer than 86 people have died in a tsunami quake that wrecked Java beach resorts in Indonesia, yesterday.

According to agency reports