

## Police kills 2, arrest 69 MASSOB suspects

The Acting Commissioner of police, Anambra State Mr. Haruna John yesterday in Awka disclosed that a joint police/military squad killed 2 MASSOB members and arrested 69 suspects in Onitsha.

Briefing pressmen in Onitsha, Haruna said that the operation started at about 10.00am and ended around 2.00pm at Silas works road, Fegge Onitsha which is the main base of the MASSOB boys.

But he said about four policemen have been reported missing in separate instances adding that a rescue operation has been handed.

He said items recovered included two pump action guns with ammunitions, two double barred guns with asserted cartages, one AK 47 rifle, one life bomb and one detonated home made bomb.

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

He explained that following the reported harassment and arrest of residents, the joint patrol team cordoned off Silas works Road Fegge, Onitsha, suspected to be their operational base.

"The joint patrol team cordoned off Silas Works Road, Fegge, Onitsha, and the MASSOB operational headquarters, when the miscreants opened fire on the police and they responded, gunning down two".

He said that the team has also stumbled upon a kitchen used by the miscreants, where prepared food and foodstuffs were recovered.

Haruna said that some of the miscreants might have gotten wind of the operation and

escaped before the squad arrived.

However, he said that the joint team had been mandated to raid the motor parks in the state to dislodge NARTO and other operators.

He said that he had planned a meeting in Awka today with NARTO and NURTW operating in the parks to inform them to quit. "We will enforce the order rigorously and before the week runs out all the parks will come under our control".

Meanwhile, the police anti-bomb squad commander, Manasseh Awanyah an ASP in charge of Anambra Enugu, and Ebonyi States, disclosed one of the bombs is a 75mm rocket bomb used during the war which was dugout to be used by MASSOB while the other is an improved explosive device (locally made bomb).

million out of the amount for projects in their respective wards.

The remaining amount, he said, was used for the local government secretariat project which is about 98 per cent completed, electrification projects in Opalo, Dawuto, Shemon and Zekun villages and a petrol station which is also nearing completion.

On the allegation that he received bank overdraft without the councillors' approval, the chairman said: "They should state which overdraft was collected and from which bank. No overdraft was taken without approval".

Mr Seth attached various documents to his letter, including some which the councillors allegedly signed and collected various sums of money for different purposes.

The chairman maintained that he was prepared to defend himself against any further allegation, saying "only the guilty are afraid".