

## Utomi wants govt to check Onitsha crisis

**T**HE leader of Restoration Group, Professor Pat Utomi, yesterday urged the Federal Government to end the Onitsha crisis in Anambra State.

In a statement in Lagos, Utomi said he had been speaking with many Anambra State stakeholders including Governor Peter Obi, stressing that it was important for Federal authorities to thoroughly investigate the cause of the crisis.

The social commentator called on "the traditional gladiators in Anambra to be careful not to sacrifice the future of their children on the altar of immediate material and power gratification."

Utomi urged leading statesmen from Anambra to speak boldly on the issues so that innocent and poor Nigerians would not continue to suffer hardship as a result of the callousness of power mongers.

He noted that the fracas in Onitsha again showed the importance of a decentralised policing system and regretted the limits of the governor to act to ensure

## • Obi can't stop Biafra, says MASSOB

*From Uzoma Nzeagwu, Awka*

law and order in the state.

Utomi, who is of the Lagos Business School, Pan African University enjoined Nigerians to recognise that peace and economic freedom were directly related to prosperity.

Relatedly, the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) said yesterday that Obi could not stop the goal of the self-determination for the Igbo.

MASSOB, reacting to its proscription by the governor, stated that since it could no longer be protected by the Federal Government, it had set-up a government to maintain law, order and protect people's property.

During a press conference, Obi announced the ban on MASSOB, Bakassi Boys and the Anambra Vigilance Services (AVS), among others, accusing such organisations as being behind the mayhem in Onit-

sha.

But in a six-page document by its Deputy Director of Information, Eastern Region, Mr. David Mac David, MASSOB stated that they had never engaged in violent activities.

The group said it believed that the governor was executing a script by the federal authorities, directing the state government to fish out some troublemakers who are allegedly considered as untouchable.

"The governor cannot

stop the actualisation of Biafra if he is being sent by the Nigerian government," the group said.

According to MASSOB, its members are not armed, insisting that they would never do so, as it would continue to ensure that peace reigns in the Biafra territory.

While absolving itself of playing any role in the current crisis in Onitsha, MASSOB maintained that the mayhem was as a result of struggle for power by other associations.

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