

# Exodus As NARTO, MASSOB Threaten Showdown Tomorrow In Onitsha

FROM  
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COLLINS AND GENGGA  
AKINFENWA (ONITSHA)

**T**HE planned comprehensive showdown in the Fege area of Onitsha, by bands of hoodlums and miscreants allegedly belonging to the Nigeria Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and MASSOB, has led to a mass exodus of residents of the area over the past three days.

In a state-wide Radio/TV broadcast yesterday, state governor Peter Obi, however, said the crisis is now under control. He stated that "rumour being spread by the miscreants that a showdown or bombing of Fege was coming" was false and urged the press and residents as well as other Nigerians to ignore the claim. Obi also stated that he would be in Fege area of the city tomorrow to see things for himself and also

prove to the embattled residents that no such thing would happen.

Investigations revealed that due to reasons yet to be ascertained, the joint military-police security patrol on the crisis have only been dispersing NARTO gangs, while more attention was focused on alleged MASSOB activists and their hideouts.

The governor confirmed being privy to a report that part of the crisis originated from a creek within the ranks of NARTO.

Despite the presence of armed joint patrol teams of soldiers and police, uneasy calm still pervades Onitsha, just as the band of miscreants have resurfaced at Ekwulobia, Agwata council, a distance of about 30km away from the commercial city.

The state government has, however taken over all its motor parks.

It also established a new management Committee, comprised mainly of the big time and popular

names in the transport sector.

In a related development, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) yesterday dissociated itself from the crises in

Onitsha in Anambra State.

The MASSOB Delta Area 4 administrator, Mazi Chikezie Ebi Chukwu, said those to be held responsible were the government, Chrs Utba, NARTO and

security agencies in the state.

MASSOB alleged that 20 of its members arrested by the security operation team deployed to the state have been killed and buried in a shallow cemetery in Awada

, a suburb of Onitsha, Anambra State.

The group also alleged that Atta street, Nkpor was like a theatre of war last week as the soldiers stormed the area in search of its members.

## Briefs

### Catholic Women

**CATHOLIC** Women should emulate Mary and be of good behaviour, Cordelia Ndiamefo, President of the Catholic Women Organisation (CWO) said at the weekend during the induction of 137 women of St. Jude Catholic Church, Mafoluku Oshodi, Lagos. The CWO organises health talks for women, sponsors seminars, lady programmes, donation of poststuffs and materials to the less privileged.

### Group Advises Ekiti

**THE** Reformed Agenda for Advancing Governance (RAFAG) has appealed to Ekiti State indigenes to shun detractors spreading false rumour to discredit Ekiti State governor, Ayo Fayose.

The chairman of the group, Ralph Palana also appealed to security agents to track down brains behind rumours that Fayose was recently detained abroad, saying such people are threat to peace in the state.

### Ekiti Group Support Odili

**RIVERS** State governor, Dr Peter Odili's presidential ambition received a boost at the weekend when a political group in Ekiti pledged their support.

The Masses Awareness Group led by Runmi

## Adelakun's Family Plans Memorial In Ibadan

BY  
KAMAL TAYO OROPO

**T**WENTY years after his death, the family of late

and often personalised, said that people exploited and extorted money from his father, even on his sick bed and that he must have been



Hoodlums terrorising a pedestrian at Toyota Bus Stop, on the Apapa-Owronso Expressway ... yesterday.