

MASSOB calls for trial of detained members

DISTURBED by the continued detention without trial of their members numbering no fewer than 55 in various police cells, leadership of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), has called on the police to charge them to court without further delay.

In a statement by the movement's Deputy Director of Information, Mazi Chris Mocha and made available yesterday to *The Guardian* in Owerri, MASSOB claimed that out of initial 116 persons arrested and detained as members of the group on June 17 in Awka, Anambra State, seven had died in cell, some denied membership while 54 and several others had been set free on alleged extortion of N70, 000 each from relations.

In the statement entitled: "MASSOB demands trial of 55 suspected members" the group said: "MASSOB is not happy with the police for arbitrarily arresting Igbo Biafrans and hounding them into custody for months on mere allegations of being members of MASSOB without charging them to court. They should be charged to court without further delay."

In a similar development, the movement has protested frequent adjournment in the

From Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri

ongoing court case involving the leader of MASSOB, Chief Ralph Uwazurike and the group's director of information, Uchenna Madu, without bail.

The statement pointed out that other ethnic group leaders had been granted bail, adding that same should apply to their leader and members.

"This is a clear reminder that the Federal Government has been insensitive and selective in its handling of Igbo matters in a country where citizens should deserve equal and fair treatment," the statement concluded.

ANOTHER can of worms has been opened on the alleged N46 million scam rocking 18 local council areas of Ondo State, as the chairman of Ilaje Council, Dr. Adebambo Odoro, yesterday testified that his signature was forged by the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) to perpetrate the fraud.

Odoro, who was giving evidence before the State House of Assembly committee, led by Mr. Kingsley Kuku that is looking into the finances of the 18 local council areas of the state, said the money would have been deducted from his account without his knowledge.

"My chairman, I received 200 doses of anti-typhoid vaccine and I did not know whether it was free or the amount of money deducted from my council's account," he said.

When the panel chairman told him not to be surprised if he

FOUR Nigerian universities are among the 15 tertiary institutions selected in Africa to run an online masters degree programme on telecommunications under the NetTel at Africa Network initiative.

This was disclosed yesterday in Abuja by the Acting Executive Secretary of West Africa Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (WATRA), Mr. Nnamdi Nwokike, at a NetTel at Africa Vice Chancellors' forum, organised by Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

The institutions, which include University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN); University of Lagos (UNILAG); Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife and the University of Jos (UNIJOS) are also expected to offer online Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) and diploma courses in ICT.

Only four universities will begin the programme, which is still at its pilot

UNN, to offer

From Betrand Nwankwu, Abuja

stage, others are expected to join later.

But this can only be possible if all the tertiary institutions are linked to the Internet, Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Engr. E. Ndukwe said.

The Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), Julius Okojie, said Nigerian universities embraced ICT, how observed that Nigerian tertiary institutions still have problem of recruiting qualified ICT teachers due to lack of funds.

WATRA executive s

Council chief accuses ALGON of

From Julius Alabi Akure

free or not because assumed that he had paid saying that he did not receive any anti-typhoid vaccine from the 200 doses.

"My chairman, for now innocent because I could recollect how much deducted from my council account then and I will sa

Activists' ru

MORE tributes can be the symbol of the women struggle, the Chief Margaret Ekpo, died on September 21 year.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the 11th anniversary of the United Nations International Women's Day at the v