

MASSOB: Police killed 760 members

THE Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) yesterday accused the police of killing 760 of its members in Onitsha area, Anambra State since the shoot-on-sight order of Governor Peter Obi.

But the police authorities dismissed the allegation as unfounded and a ploy to deceive the public.

The alleged slaughter of MASSOB members has sent members of the group fleeing the state in droves. Their destination? Other states and communities where the environment is more receptive.

Briefing reporters in Awka, the Assistant Director of Information of MASSOB, Comrade Mac David, disclosed that great potentials and rare gems had been "wasted" so soon following the

From Nwanosike Onu, Awka

shoot on sight order

MASSOB alleged that in Fegge, Onitsha South Local Government Area, 22 of its members and 12 non members were killed.

At Akpaka forest in Onitsha North council area, 36 MASSOB men and 11 non members were gunned down, while at Idemili North and South Local Governments, 28 members, 11 members respectively and 17 non members were taken away and had till date not returned or been seen.

At Okpoko, Ogbaru Local Government Area where MASSOB claimed it had large members, 42 were reportedly killed, 22 injured, Obosi, 13 members, Old Spare Parts market, 17, Nkpor, 12 non members, Okija eight non

•'It's not true'

members and three members killed, Ihiala, 24 non members while six were arrested.

Okoko, Awkuzu, Nsugbe, Aguleri, Umuleri, Odekpe, Atani road. Youths, men and women were arrested from these locations and taken to the barracks shot dead from the back MASSOB further alleged.

David further disclosed that the total number of the dead members of the group within Onitsha and its environs was 760.

According to the MASSOB spokesman, "President Obasanjo, being afraid of MASSOB, used Obi to achieve in one month what he had not been able to achieve against MASSOB since six years ago".

"Somebody shall pay and account for the blood of innocent

youths and citizens that have been shed in Anambra state in recent time in the name of government," David declared.

But the state police command has refuted the claims of the movement.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, a Deputy Superintendent (DSP), who spoke with *The Nation* yesterday in Awka, the allegations of MASSOB were unfounded.

He stated that those members who were arrested during the crisis in Onitsha, Ekwulobia, Okpoko and the forests were being interrogated by the police, adding that most of them had been released after seeing that they were innocent.

He warned the group to stop fomenting trouble in the state otherwise the full weight of the