

Why we invited soldiers to Onitsha — Gov Obi

ABUJA— GOVERNOR Peter Obi of Anambra says his invitation to the army to help quell the riots in Onitsha is to stop gangsters from causing pandemonium and mayhem.

He gave the explanation in an interview with newsmen in Abuja yesterday soon after he called on NAFDAC's Director-General, Prof. Dora Akunyili.

Obi came to consult with NAFDAC on the problems at the Onitsha drugs market, which NAFDAC had threatened to shut down for selling fake and adulterated drugs.

He said there was the need to involve the police and the military in a joint security operation rather than allow ethnic militia rascals and touts to hold citizens to ransom.

Obi confirmed that "about five or six persons died" during the fracas between the police and persons said to belong to MASSOB and NARTO.

He said he had visited the burnt police stations to assess the extent of damage incurred.

"Our security situation is not unique. We have neighbours like Delta, Enugu and Imo states, where the police carry

out joint operations with the military," the governor said.

He said: "In Onitsha, it is not that the security situation is getting out of control, it is that this initiative, the planned joint patrol, can help what we plan to do."

— *Agumogu Chin*