

Police arrest man over killing of seven youths in Onitsha

By Anayo Okoli/Chinenye Nwagu

A WKA—ANAMBRA State police command says it has arrested a principal suspect, names withheld who was said to have participated in the killing of seven Onitsha youths kidnapped about two months ago.

The suspect allegedly confessed that they killed the 7 youths at the Akpaka forest. The victims were alleged to have been killed by the Members of the Movement of the Actualization of the State of Biafra (MASSOB).

The State commissioner of police, Mr. John Haruna who led the operation to the hide-out of the suspects said three vehicles, one of which belongs to the Anambra State government were recovered and that about 200 members of MASSOB are currently cooling off in police custody for various offences.

Haruna said, "we have here before us a suspect (Mbanugo) amongst others who confessed to have taken part in the kidnap of Mmili and six

others and he told us that they were killed to his knowledge, but he was not sure where they were buried. We brought him here, hoping that he will be able to tell us where the bodies of the seven Onitsha youths and many more others we believed were kidnapped and killed by these terrorists could be found".

Addressing newsmen at the Akpaka forest Haruna said the discovery was made possible by the efforts of his men and those of the military in the joint force saying,

"we invited you to come down to this forest with us here today for you to see first hand what we've been going through. By we, I mean, the police officers, the Mopol Units. Platoons that have been drafted to join us in this operation to remove an evil force that has tried to occupy Onitsha for some months.

"Miscreants have wrecked so much havoc on the lives of innocent people; we tried to make through you the world, the nation to know what danger innocent people are facing here in Onitsha. But it is unfortunate we don't

get proper response that is why we brought you here to see for yourself and to get this information first hand." As you can all see from the way we came, this is

not a conventional road, or route for any body to follow, despite the terrible terrain you can see that a bus and two cars were brought here.

UNTH can take more NHIS patients — CMD

ENUGU—THE Chief Medical Director of University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Dr Anthony Mba says the hospital can take more patients under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Mba who spoke at the weekend in Enugu was reacting to the view in some quarters that the hospital was stretched to capacity and could take no more patients.

He said UNTH remains a reference hospital with adequate facilities to handle patients referred to it from other healthcare providers under the health insurance scheme.

"The take-off of the National Health Insurance brought more patients to the hospital, but it can still take more,"

he noted.

He said: "The capacity of teaching hospitals and other health institutions was determined by NHIS, but it does not mean that any person who requires the specialised services of UNTH cannot get it.

"The only thing is that such persons can still be referred to us under tertiary healthcare and we treat them under the scheme," he said.

Assessing the NHIS scheme, he observed that "the scheme has fared creditably well, given the short period between now and when it was launched.

"Even in developed societies where such programmes have operated for a long time, they are still being reformed.