

THE Ethnic Nationalities Forum, on Wednesday, rejected the Federal Government's decision on no-go area at the proposed forthcoming national conference.

Rising from its meeting in Abuja, the forum, comprising about 50 ethnic nationalities across the country, also demanded for the inclusion of the right to self-determination, adding that right to secession should be enshrined in Nigeria's new constitution.

This was contained in a communique issued by the forum at the end of its two days of deliberations, which ended in Abuja, on Wednesday and

Afenire.

The group decided to attend the planned confab and also continue with the agitation for a "proper conference," which would produce a new constitution that should be subjected to a referendum.

"That whilst the number of ethnic nationalities characterised by a common traditional territory, common indigenous language and other distinction, cultural traits that set each apart from other groups is a matter of disputation, the ethnic nationalities are a sociological reality

"That they are the sociological and cultural foundation of the Nigerian State; that the Nigerian

or different from the territories of the various ethnic nationalities comprised within it.

"That the ethnic nationalities are the original and primary stakeholders of the Nigerian project, having existed long before colonialism and are the primary targets and sufferers from marginalisation, oppression and injustice which abounds in the country.

"Accordingly and because they are the heart and soul of the Nigerian State, the nationalities demand as their inalienable right that they should be given legal recognition in the constitution and their status as separate nation or nationalities should also be recognised.

vacancies emanating from promotion and retirement.

ruled on the matter on Tuesday, he had no choice to rule

is important. Therefore, I rule you out of order."

## 57 killed as gunmen attack Borno towns

JAMES BWALA -MAIDUGURI

NOT less than 57 people were said to have been killed in two separate attacks in Borno State, on Tuesday, as gunmen suspected to be members of the *Boko Haram* sect attacked Chinenene village, in Gwoza Local Government Area, killing seven people, while another attack at Konduga town left 50 people dead.

A local told the *Nigerian*

*Tribune* that about 20 people, who sustained various degrees of injuries, were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Earlier, spokesman of the 7 Division, Nigerian Army, Colonel Muhammadu Dole, who confirmed the incident to newsmen in Maiduguri, had said they were still waiting for the number of casualty, but a visit to the area by the Borno State governor, Kashim Shettima, put the casualty figure at 50.

The governor, who expressed shock over the incident, urged the people not to flee their homes, as government was ready to stand with them in their hours of need.

He described the incident as barbaric and un-Islamic, while he promised that government would shoulder the bills of those that were receiving treatment at various hospitals.

He also promised to reconstruct the place of worship destroyed by the insurgents.