

*L-R: President, Nigerian Guild of Editors, Mr. Femi Adesina; Vice President-elect, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo; and representative of Lagos State Governor, Mr. Lateef Ibirogba, at the 2015 biennial convention of Nigerian Guild of Editors in Lagos... on Saturday. Photo: NAN*

had been restored to the area.

## Boko Haram attacks Borno towns

KAYODE IDOWU

### TERRORISM

**B**oko Haram insurgents may have regrouped and begun the battle to regain towns they lost to the military recently.

A member of a youth vigilante group, Abba Modu stated that two towns in Borno, Marte and Mafa were attacked by the insurgents between Thursday and Friday.

He said over 2,000 Boko

Haram members who were armed with sophisticated weapons on Thursday laid siege on Marte.

Marte, is a border town between Nigeria and Cameroon in northern part of Borno State. It is located in the western coast of the Lake Chad, and this will be the third time the insurgents will take over Marte, first in 2012 but were chased out by

Nigerian troops shortly after the declaration of State of Emergency in 2013.

They also launched a major attack on the town in 2014 when they captured it but they were pushed back before the last elections.

Modu said some of the local vigilante group in Kirenowa, the major town in Marte, reported to them in Maiduguri that the insurgents invaded the town from various locations

and succeeded in dislodging Nigerian troops stationed in the area.

He said scores of people were killed in the attack and some structures destroyed.

He said, "We were told the insurgents wreaked havoc in Kirenowa and environs this time around, it was unfortunate that this came when the residents that fled the area were beginning to go back.

"The fighting continued

till early Friday when the soldiers retreated. The town has fallen and insurgents are fully in charge, they are more than 2000 in number."

The fall of Marte, a military source, who spoke anonymously, said was not true, insisting that there was still on-going battle between the troops and the insurgents.

He said: "It is true the military and the insurgents were drawn in battle at Marte, but I can tell you that the operation is ongoing, we would not allow any part

## on results stall one million-metre distribution