

in Abuja... on Monday. Photo: FCMB

## B'Haram kills chief imam, 16 others in Borno villages

Kayode Idowu, Maiduguri

A village Chief Imam and four others were slaughtered by suspected Boko Haram members in Borno State, the Caretaker Chairman of Magumeri Local Government Area of the state, Alhaji Abubakar Abdulkadir, told journalists on Monday in Maiduguri.

Abdulkadir said, "The Chief Imam of Kurmari Village and four other persons were slaughtered by suspected members of Boko Haram sect

last night (Sunday)."

This was just as the insurgents unleashed terror on another village in the state, killing 12.

Confirming the second attack, the Chairman, Borno State Emergency Management Agency, Ahmed Satomi, said in a message to journalists that, "We regret to announce that 12 people lost their lives while 28 other persons were injured in the Monday morning suicide attack on Mashimari village of Konduga town."

The slain Chief Imam, Ustaz Goni Bukar Tabare, was the

elder brother of a popular politician in Magumeri, Mallam Goni Kundube.

Magumeri has witnessed a series of deadly attacks in the recent past, including the ambush, killing and abduction of oil exploration workers of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, contracted members of staff of the University of Maiduguri and 15 members of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Borno yesu village in July this year.

Abdulkadir, who regretted the incident, assured his people

that adequate security had been provided and normalcy had been restored.

Confirming the killing of a village chief Imam and suicide attacks on a Borno village, the Borno State Police Public Relations Officer, Victor Isuku, in a statement on Monday, said, "Yesterday 17/9/2017, at about 22.30hrs, some suspects, reasonably believed to be Boko Haram terrorists, attacked Kurumari village in the Magumeri Local Government Area. Four persons, including the Imam of the village, were reportedly killed during the attack.

## Melaye: Court hears INEC's substituted service motion Sept 28

Ade Adesomoju, Abuja

THE Independent National Electoral Commission on Monday asked Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court in Abuja to allow it to serve the Kogi West senator, Dino Melaye, the petition requesting the senator's recall and other accompanying documents, through substituted means.

Justice Dimgba had in his judgment delivered on September 11, 2017 permitted INEC to proceed with the exercise of verifying the signatures of the 188,588 registered voters who were said to have signed in support of the recall process.

The judge had ordered that the senator be served

with the recall petition and other accompanying documents as a pre-condition for commencement of the verification exercise.

But, INEC, through its lawyer, Mr. Olawale Ibrahim, told the judge on Monday that all its attempts to serve the senator personally, as ordered by the court on September 11, had been futile.

Ibrahim, in an ex parte application, sought the court's order directing substituted means of serving the senator by dumping the documents in front of Melaye's office at the National Assembly.

But a counsel, Nkem Okoro of the law firm of Mike Ozekhome (SAN), Melaye's lead counsel, told the judge that the senator

had been away from the country.

The judge, in his response, said he was informed in the morning of Monday of the "arrival of a motion ex parte by INEC for substituted service of the petition."

He therefore directed that "INEC should make one more attempt at personal service on Melaye or through his counsel."

The judge noted that "only if that fails" could he be disposed to taking the INEC's ex parte application.

Lawyers for both parties agreed that the matter be adjourned until September 28 "for report of service and / or hearing of the ex parte and all pending applications in the unlikely event that personal service still fails."

"Today 18/9/2017, at about 10.50hrs, two males and a female suicide bomber, carried out coordinated suicide bomb attacks at different locations in Mashemari village in the Konduga Local Government Area.

"The first explosion occurred during sporadic shooting in a farm. In the ensuing stampede, the first bomber detonated the explosive while the other two bombers detonated theirs close to the house of the village Head (Bulama).

"Thirteen persons, including the three suicide bombers, died in the three explosions, while 16 persons sustained varying degrees injuries and were evacuated to the General Hospital, Konduga."