

Nasarawa Council Chair Shuts Forests As Bandits Kill Vigilante, 1 Other

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The Chairman of Toto LGA of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Aliyu Abdullahi Tashas, has shutdown forests and suspended tree cutting and charcoal business across the area following the killing of a vigilante commander, Baba Gambo, and one other person identified as Bashir in the Utu-Okpaka Forest by gunmen.

Tashas stated this after an emergency security meeting which had representatives of security agents and traditional rulers in attendance on Monday.

He said the need to shut down all the forests and suspend timber and charcoal activities in the area became imperative due to attacks by gunmen.

The chairman noted that bandits used some of the forests in the area as their hideouts.

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A member of the vigilante group in in Toto, Shuaibu Ohikwo, said the incident happened on Sunday afternoon around 12pm when the gunmen laid an ambush.

He said, “The vigilante commander, upon receiving information that gunmen had chased some timber operators from the forest, left Toto on a motorcycle along with Bashir to the forest in order to rescue the timber operators, but the gunmen laid an ambush on them.”

The spokesman of the Nasarawa State Police Command, CSP Rahman Nansel, did not pick calls or reply to a text message sent to his phone as at the time of filing this report.