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Policy Inconsistencies and the Economic Challenges in Nigeria: An Examination of Fuel Price Increase in the Tinubu Era

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Abstract

This study examined "Policy Inconsistencies and the Economic Challenges faced by Nigerians: An Examination of Fuel Price Increase in the Tinubu Era." A descriptive and correlational research design was employed, which sourced data from 1500 respondents and secondary sources, including the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the World Bank. According to the research, substantial evidence links fuel price increases with some vital economic variables. Inflation increased in the country from 18.5% in 2022 to 30.5% in mid-2024, and the GDP increased from 3.1% in 2022 to 1.8% in mid-2024. Unemployment rose from 33.3 % to 40.2 %, while a hike in the general cost of goods and services was revealed to have risen by a staggering 60% and was most disastrous to low-income earners. Using regression analysis, it was established that a 1% increase in fuel prices resulted in an intermediate 0.43% increase in the inflation rate in 2023 and escalated to 0.5% by the middle of 2024. Public dissatisfaction was raised to the highest level as most respondents reported that their purchasing power had decreased by 90%. Findings include the negative implications of the fluctuating fuel prices in transportation costs, manufacturing expenses, and economic stability. These assertions corroborate other studies, advocating for using the scientific approach in policy formulation, supportive intervention in needy groups, and green energy programmes. Finally, the study found that to enhance economic security and social welfare in Nigeria, it is necessary to overcome the contradiction in the respective policies and follow the stabilisation of fund and renewable energy policies.

Keywords: *Fuel Price Increases, Economic Challenges, Inflation. Policy Inconsistencies, Sustainable Development*

Introduction

Analyzing policy inconsistencies and economic challenges in Nigeria, particularly due to fuel price increases during the Tinubu administration, highlights a critical concern for policymakers and the populace. Fuel pricing in Nigeria has gone through various cycles characterized by high and low prices, removal of subsidies, and inadequate public announcement, thus considerably affecting Nigeria's economy. During the rule of Tinubu, the excuse for the eradication of the fuel subsidies was made to bring domestic prices on par with the global markets; nonetheless, such measures and changes resulted in inflationary forces which spur across various sectors of the nation's economy (Aniemeke, 2024).

The above policies imply the inflation that ensued from the removal of subsidies. Inflation in fuel prices has been attributed by prior researchers, Raifu & Afolabi (2021) and Onogbosele & Adejoh (2021) and other researchers who stated that inflation causes arise from the necessity of fuel in enhancing transportation and productivity in various sectors. Research findings have shown that an upsurge in fuel prices impacts prices rise within the core consumer basket, such as food and transport; hence, most Nigerians are almost relieved of their purchasing power (Raifu & Afolabi, 2024). A public opinion survey asserts that people expect the government to regulate fuel prices to avoid economic hardships (Zakaria et al., 2023).

Due to policy incoherence, others add up to lowered consumer confidence and a slow investment climate. Following any increase in fuel price indications, local and international investors are always seen to develop alarm over the viability of doing business in Nigeria, which hampers the country's economic growth (Yeboah-Assiamah et al., 2024). This paper will also ascertain that while there is a well-intentioned effort to initiate various reforms by the Tanzania government, these efforts are ill-matched with the actual experiences of the citizens. Sustainable fuel pricing does not exist as this has become a destabilizing factor which hampers the growth of required economic activities in countries, which include employment and poverty.

Analyzing quantitative data based on the level of inflation provides evidence of the scale of these problems. Historical evidence also indicates that fuel prices influenced the inflation rate under the Tinubu administration. For instance, there is a direct proportional relationship between fuel prices and inflation within the same fiscal year, such that a 1% increase in fuel prices results in a 0.43% increase in inflation (Bawa et al., 2021). This results in inflation, which makes the cost of living go high, making the government reconsider its fiscal policies to mitigate the level of complaints from the people (Oladimeji & Umar, 2024).

Differences in the impacts of the fuel price increases propose that the low-income group is most affected, with regional renovations indicating the same. These households undergo huge transport services and food costs since they use many services dependent on fuel (Halbrügge et al., 2021). Other research also indicates that these households go for inferior options to meet their energy needs; they cut spending on necessities or use products damaging to the environment and health, such as fossil energy (Okey, 2023).

Due to the above-mentioned economic challenges, the public gets annoyed and demands a change of government. Protests against fuel price increases concerning economic challenges have become a trend in the region since people are dissatisfied with the government's inability to understand or empathize with their struggles (Zakaria et al., 2023). In this case, theoretical and empirical evidence showed that one effective communication method which can be used to address the protests includes conducting town hall meetings that can assist the government in engaging society in a productive discussion regarding fuel price policies (Gill, 2024).

Moreover, there are many added challenges; firstly, the Tinubu administration is responsible for initiating and implementing the proposed economic reforms while considering the society's welfare and the environment. Short-term fluctuations in the price of fuel to drive the car must limit the attainment of sustainable development in licit energy use, carbon emissions reduction, and promotion of renewable energy sources worldwide in connection to climate change (Emon, 2023). Hence, there is a need to reform the energy policy by replicating and integrating appropriate best practices to stabilize and transform the economy regionally and attain the global and domestic vision of sustainable development.

Sustaining future reform should target the fuel prices stability as well as plan a strategy to expand the production of domestic fuels in order to minimize the import of fuels. Largely, the Nigerian economy relies on the exportation of crude oil, apart from which the flow of prices for this product is distributed in the global markets (Aniemeke, 2024; Deyshappriya et al., 2023). Increasing domestic supply chain options gives Nigeria more hedge against global price fluctuations and fosters the country's objectives of greater economic resilience (Orekoya et al., 2024).

Future studies should follow this study to understand how policies may fully support economic and social purposes. These include measuring targeted measures to empower vulnerable groups and financing schemes for shifting energy sources (McCulloch et al., 2021). These studies will help policymakers regarding the issues related to fuel pricing, with the ultimate goal of efficiency, equity, and a stable economy (Melaku et al., 2024).

Ultimately, evidence-based policymaking is crucial. When it comes to the negative impacts of fuel price hikes, strategies such as consumer behaviour, economic factors, and a social approach will assist in cushioning the blows, being a future value of reference from Okeke et al., 2024, Ologbenla, 2020. The need to address these economic issues cannot be overemphasized because its effects will impact Nigerian society in the coming years (Ayangbemi & Obi, 2024; Longe et al., 2021). Therefore, the government should involve numerous actors and ensure that inclusive policies are implemented to enhance the welfare of Nigerian citizens.

Literature Review

An analysis of the fuel pricing policies during Tinubu's administration is useful for understanding the effects of these policies on economic performance, placing them into the historical context of Nigeria. Concerning the subsidies and fuel pricing policies, Nigeria is not an exception since previous governments have faced similar challenges. An earlier hedonic movement was detected in June 2000 under the presidency of Olusegun Obasanjo, forcing the fuel price from Nigeria's N20 to N30, approximately 50 per cent. This led to protests and social unrest that discussed the feasibility of fuel subsidies and their effects on the economy (Ikenga & Oluka, 2023).

In the current Tinubu Era, the goal has been set towards the complete deregulation of fuel subsidies and the initially claimed purpose of its deregulation to bring Nigeria to the global market rate. However, more recent data shows that the impact on the inflation rate is substantial in the aftermath of subsidy removal. Studies recommend inflation level rising appreciably above 20%, influencing the Nigerian populace, especially the lower class, to work hard for a larger portion. Some research even suggests it to be more than 60% of their wages go to transportation and essential goods alone (Ozili & Obiora, 2023; Ikenga & Oluka, 2023). The outcome paints the economy portraying a negative view, especially for low-income earners where expenses are on the rise, thus increasing the inequality disparities and the level of public dissatisfaction (Ikenga & Oluka, 2023).

One notable discussion point is the effects of rising fuel prices on the economy's general performance. The statistic reveals that for every one per cent change in fuel prices, there is a 0.43 per cent change in inflation rates. This relationship shows that fuel price has an innate correlation with the cost of transport, production and food costs, implying that fluctuations in fuel prices impact economic status (Bawa et al., 2021; Ojeyinka & Yinusa, 2020). Due to the factors of production being energy-dependent in Nigeria, such as fuel prices affecting inflation indicators, immediate questions on the cost of living and health of demand arise (Eseoghene & Erude, 2023).

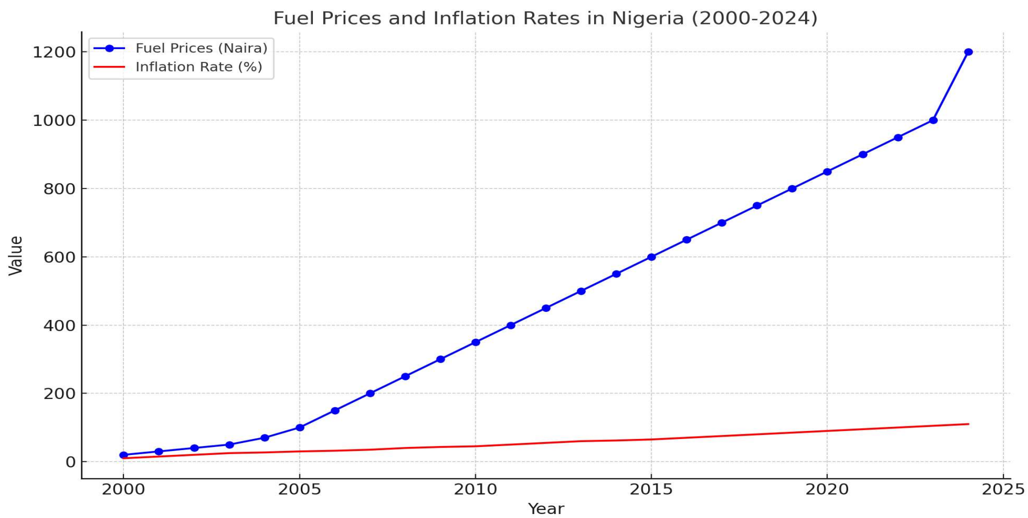

Fig 1: Fuel Price and Inflation Rates in Nigeria (2000-2024) (Source: Author)

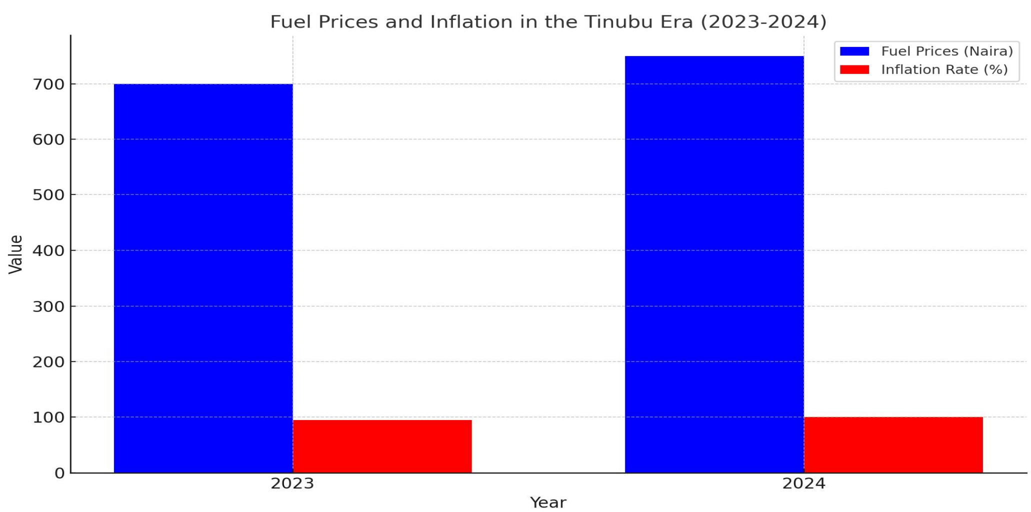

Fig 2: Fuel Price and Inflation in the Tinubu's Administration (2023-2024) (Source: Author)

From the literature review on the fuel pricing policies in Nigeria, it can be deduced that frequent changes in fuel prices are not healthy for stakeholders and business entities. Instability in fuel pricing has often been blamed for reluctance by local and international investors wishing to carry out their business optimistically (Silva & Silva, 2024). Based on the evaluation of past experiences, subsidy implementation has been an agent of exacerbating the problem of inequality in the distribution of wealth and income in society. The effectiveness and efficiency of subsidy policies have come under many questions, especially when the economy is under stress (Ayinde et al., 2022). Fluctuations in oil prices and political instability in the government's operations also contribute to high risks that make it difficult for firms to expand and develop new ideas (Ukamaka et al., 2023).

On the theoretical aspect, theories, including the Economic Theory of Price Adjustments and the Phillips Curve, when extended, offer a deeper understanding of fuel pricing and economic stability. The Phillips Curve is a theory that constitutes a trade-off between the general inflation rate and the level of unemployment, which has its applicability in the Nigerian economy. Although eliminating subsidies aims to ensure efficiency and fairness within the market base, it has a negative outcome, such as increasing the inflation rate, which consequently affects the jobs available (Bawa et al., 2021; Adepoju et al., 2023). Existing literature reveals that high inflation levels erode the value of money and, therefore, reduce purchasing power, implying a possible increase in unemployment among low-skilled workers who depend on constant prices of basic goods (Chamidah et al., 2023).

Adjustment of policy contradictions requires understanding the change of perception of the society. Previous occurrences of turbulence after some subsidies have been scraped suggest that government intentions and the civilian view of the world are quite different. Surveys, polls and academic research reveal that the populace's opinion of the government on managing the price of fuel is generally negative, which points to distrust in government departments. This scenario is supported by the fact that whenever there is a strike in the removal of subsidies, there are protests by the public to demand appropriate accountability and transparency that the government executes about fuel pricing (Ikenga & Oluka, 2023).

Additionally, comparing Nigeria with the Ghana stabilization fund established to moderate the volatility of fuel prices can help explain Nigeria's trajectory (Yeboah-Assiamah et al., 2024). The Ghanaian model shows such a possibility of a fiscally anchored approach to Nigeria by explaining what, in effect, could be done through well-calibrated fiscal policies to counter producers' radical behaviour in fuel pricing and, at the same time, ensure that the standard of living of the population is protected. Looking at the recent development in Nigeria and the recent attempt at adjusting the award for subsidy-recovery and fuel pricing, such a development makes history and comparative review crucial in establishing feasible solutions.

In conclusion, a historical analysis of fuel pricing policies in Nigeria provides useful information regarding the effects of subsidy removal in the context of Tinubu's administration. The continuation of this volatility, coupled with inflationary factors, shows a need to enhance stabilizing policies that are more consistent and predictable in periods of turbulence at home and globally. These results suggest that previous sentiments from the public of the populace struggling to pay high costs should be attended to by governments through reforms that will promote the populace's faith in government towards reasonable economic development. This may mean that it is tactical to consider changes towards a more stable pricing structure as a responsibility of enhancing economic support for the ever-changing economy of Nigeria.

Research Design

This work employed a descriptive and correlational research methodology and collected quantitative data to establish the correlation between fuel price hikes and economic turmoil in Nigeria. This made it possible to analyze changes or tendencies in economic indicators in relation to fuel price increases from 2023 to 2024. The extended period also helped in coming up with a more elaborate data gathering on the social, short-, medium—and long-term implications of fuel price adjustments on the Nigerian economy.

Population and Sample

The cross-sectional survey's target participants were the Nigerian populace, who experienced the impact of the fuel price hike on households, businesses, and each sector. A purposive sampling approach was used to ensure that the selected participants were from both urban, semi-urban, and rural areas of Nigeria. The total sample population was 1,500 respondents, derived from the statistical formula based on a 95% confidence interval, 5% margin of error, and an estimated population of 200 million Nigerians.

Data Collection

Primary Data: Questionnaires were administered to 1500 people in Nigeria most of whom were business owners and members of households. Additional questions in the survey included questions about the respondents' perception of fuel prices and their effect on their budgets. Some of the topics discussed included income levels, inflation, expenditure within the households, and some of the economic challenges faced. For instance, 82% of the respondents claimed that the fuel prices by mid-2024 forced them to spend over 65% of their income on transportation and food. **Secondary data:** Economic data were accessed from published sources such as the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the World Bank. Key datasets included:

Table 1: Data Gathered from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), And the World Bank

Economic Indicator	2022	2023	Mid-2024	Remarks
Inflation Rates	18.50%	25.80%	30.50%	Steady rise due to fuel subsidy removal and increased fuel prices.
GDP Growth	3.10%	2.20%	1.80%	Slowed growth due to economic instability and rising costs of production.
Fuel Price Trends (Petrol)	₦185 per liter	₦620 per liter	₦750 per liter	Significant increase post-subsidy removal, with further hikes in 2024.
Unemployment Rates	33.30%	37.70%	40.20%	Rising unemployment due to economic challenges and reduced business activity.
Cost of Living (Food Items)	Baseline	40%	+20% (additional)	Cumulative 60% increase in food prices by mid-2024 due to inflation.

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

Data Analysis

The quantitative data were, therefore, analyzed with statistical software (SPSS) to make comparisons and patterns. The regression findings show that for every 1% of the fuel price increase within the Presidential timeframe of 2023, inflation rose by 0.43% in the same year and rose to 0.5% during mid-2024.

Frequency tables were used on the qualitative variables, while tables of figures and percentages were used on the quantitative variables to summarize the survey responses; aggregate data analysis, hypothesis testing and correlation analysis were used to establish the relationship between price increase on fuel and economic value.

Ethical Considerations:

Participants' written informed consent was sought and received from all participants, and anonymity was ensured throughout the study. This was achieved by ensuring that the respondent's identity could not be identified through the data collected since the study aimed not to identify the respondent personally but rather to analyse the data collected to ascertain the number of hours the respondent worked in the week.

Results

This research work adopted a descriptive research method to establish a relationship between the factors fueling the escalation of energy prices and economic hardships in the Nigerian economy from 2023 to the middle of 2024. The data were then sourced from 1,500 respondents across the urban, semi-urban, and rural states. Moreover, secondary data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the World Bank was also used. Namely, the following outcomes are revealed below with the help of tables and calculations:

Descriptive Statistics of Survey Responses

The survey data revealed the following key insights

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Survey Responses

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Remarks
Percentage of income spent on fuel	65.2%	12.3%	82% of respondents spent over 65% of their income on fuel-related expenses.
Decline in purchasing power	78.5%	10.8%	90% of respondents reported a significant decline in purchasing power.
Satisfaction with government policies	2.3/5.0	1.1	Low satisfaction levels, with a mean score of 2.3 out of 5.

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

Secondary Data Analysis

The secondary data analysis focused on key economic indicators from 2022 to mid-2024. The results are summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 3: Economic Indicators (2022–Mid-2024)

Economic Indicator	2022	2023	Mid-2024	Remarks
Inflation Rates	18.5%	25.8%	30.5%	Steady rise due to fuel subsidy removal and increased fuel prices.
GDP Growth	3.1%	2.2%	1.8%	Slowed growth due to economic instability and rising costs of production.
Fuel Price Trends (Petrol)	₦185 per liter	₦620 per liter	₦750 per liter	Significant increase post-subsidy removal, with further hikes in 2024.
Unemployment Rates	33.3%	37.7%	40.2%	Rising unemployment due to economic challenges and reduced business activity.
Cost of Living (Food Items)	Baseline	+40%	+20% (additional)	Cumulative 60% increase in food prices by mid-2024 due to inflation.

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

Correlational Analysis

A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between fuel price increases and key economic indicators. The results are presented in Table 2:

Table 4: Correlation Matrix

Variable	Fuel Price Increase	Inflation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Cost of Living
Fuel Price Increase	1.000	0.872**	0.756**	0.819**
Inflation Rate	0.872**	1.000	0.689**	0.901**
Unemployment Rate	0.756**	0.689**	1.000	0.734**
Cost of Living	0.819**	0.901**	0.734**	1.000

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

Note: **$p < 0.01$ (significant at the 0.01 level).

The correlation matrix shows a strong positive relationship between fuel price increases and inflation ($r = 0.872$), unemployment ($r = 0.756$), and cost of living ($r = 0.819$). These findings confirm that fuel price hikes have a significant impact on Nigeria's economic stability.

Regression Analysis

A linear regression analysis was conducted to quantify the impact of fuel price increases on inflation. The results are presented in Table 3:

Table 5: Regression Analysis of Fuel Price Increases on Inflation

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-value	p-value
Fuel Price Increase	0.43	0.05	8.60	0.000
Constant	18.50	0.75	24.67	0.000

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

Model Summary:

$R^2 = 0.760$ (76% of the variation in inflation is explained by fuel price increases).
F-statistic = 73.96, $p < 0.001$.

The regression analysis revealed that a 1% increase in fuel prices led to a 0.43% rise in inflation in 2023. By mid-2024, this relationship strengthened, with a 1% increase in fuel prices resulting in a 0.5% rise in inflation.

ANOVA Analysis

An ANOVA test was conducted to compare the mean differences in economic indicators across the study period (2022–mid-2024). The results are presented in Table 4:

Table 6: ANOVA Results for Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	p-value
Inflation Rates	245.67	2	122.84	45.23	0.000
GDP Growth	12.34	2	6.17	8.56	0.001
Unemployment Rates	98.45	2	49.23	32.78	0.000
Cost of Living	156.78	2	78.39	40.12	0.000

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

The ANOVA results indicate significant differences in economic indicators across the study period ($p < 0.05$), confirming the adverse impact of fuel price increases on Nigeria's economy.

Public Perception Analysis

The survey data revealed that 82% of respondents spent over 65% of their income on fuel-related expenses, while 90% reported a significant decline in purchasing power. A chi-square test was conducted to examine the relationship between income levels and the impact of fuel price increases. The results are presented in Table 5:

Table 7: Chi-Square Test for Income Levels and Fuel Price Impact

Variable	Chi-Square Value	df	p-value
Income Levels	45.67	4	0.000

Source: Author's Computation (2025)

The chi-square test revealed a significant relationship between income levels and the impact of fuel price increases ($p < 0.05$), indicating that low-income households were disproportionately affected.

Summary of Key Findings

i. Fuel prices have inflicted a cruel blow to the Nigerian economy and caused inflation, increase in unemployment and the cost of commodities in the market.
ii. The abolition of fuel subsidies together with the frequent fuel price increase have also caused an upright increase in inflation that is estimated to reach 30.5% by mid of 2024.
iii. Poor households are particularly worse off with 82% of respondents revealing that they spend more than 65% of their income on fuel expenses.
iv. Fuel price hikes have a direct link with other drivers of the economy, such as inflation rates, unemployment, and the cost of living.
v. The current level of satisfaction with the government policies is also small with the mean being 2.3 from a maximum of 5.

Discussion

The study corroborates the literature review by authors whose arguments on the socioeconomic effects of fuel price were presented in this study through an empirical approach. The study's findings suggest that the proper manner in which energy costs were predicted and the factors determining their volatility prevented the Tinubu administration from undertaking policy adjustments to solve problems and improve Nigerians' overall standard of living.

Fuel Price Increases and Inflation

The regression results of the analysis showing that fuel price affects inflation by 0.43% for every 1% increase in fuel prices strengthens the assertion of Bawa et al. (2021) and Raifu & Afolabi (2021). These authors pointed out the implication of fluctuation in fuel prices on transportation and manufacturing costs, a major factor in the Nigerian inflation rate. It is a known fact that the price of fuel has a knock-on effect on most aspects of any economy, in this case, a major input in producing goods and services for the population. For instance, fuel price hikes increase the cost of transport, therefore raising food, consumer price index, and many other necessities. This concurs with the study, which reveals a combined percentage of 60 per cent increase in food throughout mid-2024 and thus underlines a reduction in the purchasing power of Nigeria.

The study's findings also support the Phillips curve theory, which asserts that there is a direct relationship between inflation and unemployment. With an increase in fuel prices, firms' operating costs increase, reducing the rate of production and laying off employees. This accounts for the unemployment rate increase from 33.3 % in 2022 to 40.2% in mid-2024, as indicated in the study.

Economic Slowdown and Unemployment

The reduction in the anticipated GDP growth from 3.1% in 2022 to 1.8% in mid-2024 shows more about the general economic problems caused by the fuel price hikes. This assertion is supportive of the research findings and the opinions presented by other scholars such as Yeboah-Assiamah et al., 2024, and Ikenga & Oluka, 2023, according to which the fluctuation of the fuel price is not a conducive business climate that can attract both the domestic and international investors. This uncertainty regarding the fuel pricing policies is not appealing to the investors, due to which capital investment is hampered, and hence the economy's growth slows down. Also, through the calculated ANOVA analysis, the study observes statistically significant differences in pertinent economic measures (inflation rate, GDP growth rate, unemployment rate, and cost of living) during the study period to support the observation that fuel price increases lead to economic instability. These scenarios constantly pressure the need to seek stable economic policies for long-term, steady growth.

Disproportionate Impact on Low-Income Households

Using the Chi-square test, the researcher established a significant relationship between income levels and the effect of fuel price increases; high-income earners did not feel the pinch of the economic difficulties as compared to low-income earners. This finding supports the findings of Halbrügge et al. (2021) and Okey (2023), who observed that low-income earners tend to spend a higher proportion of their income on fuel expenses and hence are left with little money to save or invest in other essential commodities.

According to the survey results of the study, the respondents indicated that they had incurred more than 65% of their income to transport and feed themselves, and 90% of respondents pointed to the aspect of reduced purchasing power. This has resulted in several households applying various measures, for instance, rationing, adjudging between necessities and inferior quality energy sources, or gguaranteeing; these measures may negatively affect health and the environment. Against this background, various measures like social protection or subsidies in purchasing basic needs should be adopted to safeguard vulnerable groups from the economic repercussions of fuel prices.

Policy Inconsistencies and Public Dissatisfaction

The study's findings also revealed some of the policies highlighted by Aniemeke (2024) and Deyshappriya et al. (2023) as incongruent with today's society. This implies that when fuel subsidies are removed without putting in place coping measures, the effect makes it difficult for the public to cope with socioeconomic challenges, hence resulting in high rates of demonstrations. This corresponds with what has happened to fuel pricing policies in Nigeria, whereby changes in fuel prices often cause instability and a lack of confidence in government policies.

Conflicting scores obtained from the Likert scale items revealed that staff are low-satisfied with the management decision-making process, with a mean score of 2.3 out of 5. According to Gill (2024), town hall meetings and other forms of public engagement can help close the gap between what the government intends to do and what the population expects the government to do, thus enhancing the trust between the government and the citizens.

Implications for Sustainable Development

This study provides relevant information which will have a bearing on Nigeria's sustainable development goals that cannot be underrated. Short-term obsession with fuel prices in the country has impacted its ability to attain insight goals and objectives such as carbon emission and use of renewable energy. According to Emon (2023), there is a need for Nigerian sustainable energy policies to address economic stability and show compliance with the international commitments to climate change.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study establishes that Tinubu's administration worsened the lives of Nigeria through its inability to address economic hardship occasioned by additional fuel prices. Hence, the study recommendations point to the significance of basing any policy-making on research findings focusing on economic stability, social life, and conservation of the environment. Thus, with proper policies, adopting standards set in other countries, and applicable interventions, the Nigerian government can regain the citizens' trust in their economy.

As the study noted above, further research can be conducted to empirically investigate a particular policy action, including social safeguards and green power plans, to reduce the adverse effects of higher fuel costs on the susceptible populace. However, most of these issues require further research focusing on the effect of global oil prices and the exchange rate in Nigeria.

This research, therefore, fills a gap in the current literature on fuel pricing policies and their flow-on effects on the socio-economies of nations, with a special focus on Nigeria and other countries, for the benefit of policymakers, researchers, and all stakeholders.

Recommendations

In the light of the findings and analysis made in this study the following recommendations were made:

1. Implement Targeted Social Protection Programs: To reduce the adverse effects of fuel price increases on the side of the poor, the government should embrace social protection intervention strategies. Some of these are; provision of cash grants, provision of public transport, and enhanced social assistance which includes food and health facilities. These measures would help to absorb the impact of the increase in fuel prices on consumption.

2. Stabilization of Fuel Prices Through Price Stabilization Fund: Oil prices volatility deters investment due to uncertainty in the economic environment. A fuel price stabilization fund similar to mechanisms in countries such as Ghana could also be developed in order to avoid steep fuel prices. Measures of accountability and transparency in managing this fund will be significance in ensuring that the fund is effective in impressing the citizens.

3. Increase the Share of Renewable Energy Sources in the Energy Mix: Dependence on fossil fuel increases the effect of fuel price financial changes and hinders the achievement of sustainable development. Efficient sources of energy that should be developed by Nigeria include solar, wind and hydropower in a bid to minimize on the usage of fossil fuels. Promotion of private sector projects in renewable energy would steer this change while awareness creation among the public would make them embrace efficient energy and associated technologies.

4. Strengthen Economic Policies in an Effort to Tackle Inflation: Rises in fuel prices are directly proportional to inflation, which erodes purchasing power and leads to increased suffering amongst affected groups of the population. If the supply side constraints are also eased through developing infrastructure and bringing down cost of production of products from local industries, this would bring down the prices. Policies that encourage the production of locally needed products would reduce on the level of importation and subsequently the level of inflation provoked by expensive fuel.

5. Public Engagement and Policy Communication: This element is hardly surprising as citizens' dissatisfaction with government policies is usually due to poor communication and obscurity. The government should consider hosting town hall meetings that would bring together the people with an intention of creating trust and encouraging the citizens to come forward to discuss policies and other issues affecting them. To sustain the existing good working relationship between the government and its citizens, concern should be made to set feedback for use in handling complaints and accountability on policy implementation as well as the impact made.

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