

**THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF FUEL SUBSIDY
REMOVAL IN NIGERIA, WITH A FOCUS ON KOGI STATE.**

BY

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Absract

This paper investigates the roles of effective information dissemination in mitigating the effects of fuel subsidy removal in Kogi State. There is a social contract between the government and the people, in a democratic system of government which implies that citizen should be well informed about challenges and the gains of this policy, to avert fake news which can cause chaos, anarchy, and other social vices that are not good for the present democratic dispensation. Fuel subsidy removal came as a shock to Kogi people after listening to the presidential broadcast of president Ashiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on the 29th May, 2023. Since the discovery of petrol in Oloibiri in the present Bayelsa state, petrol has remained the mainstay of Nigerian economy and any hike in the price of petrol always results in socio-economic hardship to the citizen. It is quite obvious in Kogi state that, since the removal of fuel subsidy, there has been drastic increase in the cost of goods and services, it is therefore necessary to create a better understanding between the government and the people using the strategy of effective information dissemination, because information is power which can clear any form of fake news and rumour mongering in relation to fuel subsidy removal. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources using both qualitative and quantitative approaches while the samples of two hundred respondents were selected from population of three hundred and thirty-five people. Data obtained from field survey was carefully analyzed to achieve the objective of the study.

KEYWORDS: *Effective Information Dissemination, Fuel Subsidy Removal.*

INTRODUCTION

Historically, the issue of fuel subsidy removal has been a controversial issue, which several governments in the past have attempted to remove subsidy on fuel but Nigerian resisted the policy. (Sunday 2023).

Vice President Kashim Shettima said Nigeria must get rid of fuel subsidy before it deals a deadly blow to the country. He further stated that, the President has issued pronouncements on fuel subsidy, the truth of the matter is that the poor over 80% of Nigerian benefit little. In the year 2022 the government spent \$10 billion subsidizing ostentatious lifestyle of upper class of the society, so it is better for subsidy to go.

Since the removal of fuel subsidy through a national broadcast, when President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn in as the 16th President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 29th, 2023, the increase in the price of fuel has invariably results to high price for the consumers. It is quite obvious that the removal of fuel subsidy has brought a lot of hardship to not only Nigerians but other African Countries depending on Nigeria for fuel. The fact remains that fuel subsidy is gone and this is a government policy and economic reality that Nigerian need to cope with.

What is Government Policy?

To Isah (2013) government policy can be regarded as the actions and inactions of the government, it entails what the government want to do, when to do it and how to do it.

In a democratic dispensation, especially in Nigeria, policies cannot be separated from good governance, because government must formulate one policy or the other to improve the standard of living of the citizenry educationally, politically, and socially. For the policy of fuel subsidy removal to have the desired positive effects on Nigerian, it is imperative for Nigerians to be well-informed about this policy. Nigerians need to know what they stand to benefit from the policy in the long run.

In view of the above, the researchers conceived the idea of carrying out this research work on ***“THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL IN NIGERIA, WITH A FOCUS ON KOGI STATE”***.

After the removal of fuel subsidy, there have been series of misinformation from different quarters and such rumour mongering can result to fake news, chaos and anarchy that will cause setback for Nigeria’s democratic journey.

Librarians and other information experts in the media houses need to be more proactive in their responsibilities, by providing timely information to Nigerians, because government and governance is a

social contract between the leaders and the followers. Through effective information dissemination, Nigerians will be in a better position to really understand government policies and how to cooperate with the government for the achievement of the goals of the policy of fuel subsidy removal.

Kumar (2017) observed that, the vital activities in the library involves acquisition, collection, processing of information – materials to render information services like Reference services, document delivery, selective dissemination of information etc., all these acts to satisfy the information needs of the readers about full subsidy removal.

Oghenetega (2014) is of the opinion that we are now in the era of Information and Communications Technology (I. C. T.), the use of ICT in the library is becoming more popular especially in academic Libraries in Nigeria. The use of ICT involves online literature searching, and making use of computers to support learning and research (McDonald 2005). With the aid of ICT, Librarians and other library staff stand a better position to disseminate current and relevant information available to information seekers at free cost.

According to Khan (2016) in the olden days, the library was considered as a mere house of knowledge, where some people cannot even differentiate between a library and a bookshop, but with the advent of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) libraries are better positioned to render effective information services to library users and information seekers. The emergence of ICT in the field of Library and Information Science brought about changes in the way Libraries operate, which enables new forms of Library and Information Services as well as adding value to existing processes and activities, facilitating the service of librarians' interaction with users.

Sutton (2001) observed that the changes brought about by ICT into the Library and Information Services (LIS) profession can be divided into major categories; namely the natural evolutionary change, and on the other hand transformational changes.

Sutton (2001) further added that, with the evolution of information service delivery today, library and information professionals have harnessed the potential of ICT to perform old tasks better and more efficiently, through the digital nature of housekeeping tasks such as reference works, bibliographic services, cataloguing serial control, circulation and acquisition. In this regard, the transformational changes which have occurred include the emergence of new functions arising out of an expanded demand-driven information society, wider interdisciplinary jurisdiction of information services with closer focus on ever-expanding techno-centric user's needs. These informative trends represent systematic changes that substantially alter the boundaries of the Library and Information Sciences (LIS) profession. It has also been noted by Kumar (2015) that, library now witness the genre of library users who exhibit much dexterity in the

use of modern information technologies such as the social media and other collaborative technologies. This generation of information seekers have greater preference for information resources in electronic format, which are available on the internet. The resources can be easily accessed through computers, laptops and mobile devices. As a result, librarians in Kogi State need to take advantage of the new trends in information technology to disseminate needed information to information-seekers as a means of reducing misinformation and fake news that can destabilize peace in our society, the era of post-fuel subsidy removal.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

One of the greatest problems that is of concern to the researcher is the evil of fake news and misinformation. If Nigerians are not properly informed about the issues surrounding fuel subsidy removal, it could lead to violence, destruction to lives and property.

Again, Nigeria is one of the largest Countries on the African continents which also occupies a very important position in African politics; that is why there is that belief that, Nigerian is a “big brother” to other smaller African nations. In view of the above, any government policy that could cause social unrest has to be properly managed through information dissemination. As it has been stated before that government and governance is a social contract between the leaders and the followers, there is need for effective dissemination of information about the plan of government to alleviate the suffering of the people as a result of the removal of fuel subsidy. Due to the large population of Nigeria, which was estimated to be over two hundred million people, the problem is that if there is war in Nigeria over the issue of removal of fuel subsidy, which Country in Africa has such capacity to accommodate refugees from Nigeria? That is a serious problem that the policy-makers should seriously think about, so that Nigerians should be well-informed about the pains and the future gains of removal of fuel subsidy.

It is in view of the above, that researches of this nature should be intensified to proffer solutions to some of the salient issues that could throw the Country into a state of confusion.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

This research work is very important to different people and most importantly the general public, because the research work is a good material to policy-makers. In policy circles; like policy formulation, policy implementation, policy analysis and evaluation, the policy makers need to relate the policy of fuel subsidy removal with all these processes, to ascertain if the government has actually taken enough time, in the formulation of this policy, and if the National Assembly has really well in the evaluation processes, and the effective implementation of the policy. All these processes associated with public policy need to be properly adhered to for the policy of the government to achieve the desired objectives.

Another importance of this research work is that, it deals with contemporary issue that affects Nigerians both poor and rich. All of us in Nigeria cannot do without fuel, the business class, politicians, students, lecturers, doctors all need petrol to survive, because petrol is the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. That is why the Labour Party (LP) has condemned the action of government in removal of fuel subsidy, that the policy was forced on Nigerians without due consultation (Bakare, 2025).

This research work can also serve as reference material to future researchers who may likely have related research work to carry out. The research recommendations at the end of this research work would go a long way to ameliorate some of the challenges associated with the policy of fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria.

Ozili (2023) opined that fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria has been a contentious economic reform, often accompanied by social unrest, inflation and political backlash. Fuel subsidies have long been a financial burden on the Nigerian government, often criticized for being economically unsustainable and disproportionately benefitting the wealthy (Nwokolo, 2022). Their removal, though fiscally prudent, usually results in socio-economic disruption.

Historically, fuel subsidies were introduced to cushion Nigerians against global price volatility. However, they became a drain on the economy, costing the government billions annually (NESG, 2023). The removal of subsidies particularly under the Tinubu administration in 2023 sparked protests and public outcry, underscoring the need for better communication strategies.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Given the nature of the problem under study, “The Role of Effective Information Dissemination in Mitigating the Effect of Fuel Subsidy Removal in Nigeria, A Case Study of Kogi State”, the main objective of this research work is to contribute to the development of the nation through a research work geared towards solving contemporary issues affecting the nation. Other objectives of the study are:

- a) To embrace fuel subsidy removal policy as a policy in the right direction.
- b) To promote effective information dissemination strategies that, can fully inform Nigerians about this policy.
- c) To reduce the tendency of rumour mongering as a result of misinformation arising from the policy of fuel subsidy removal.
- d) To highlight some palliative measures put in place by Kogi State government to reduce the effects of suffering of the people.

RESEARCH QUESTION

To achieve the purpose of carrying out this research work, these research questions emanated from the objectives as follows:

- 1) Is the removal of fuel subsidy a policy in the right direction?
- 2) Is the Nigerian populace well-informed about the pains and gains of this policy?
- 3) Can misinformation about the policy of fuel subsidy removal cause social unrest, chaos and anarchy?
- 4) Is it necessary for the government to roll out some palliative measures to cushion the effects of this policy?
- 5) Can effective information dissemination help Kogi people to really cooperate with the government?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This aspect of the research explains the coverage of the research work. The research is basically on “The Role of Effective Information Dissemination in Mitigating the Effects of Fuel Subsidy Removal in Nigeria with A Focus on Kogi State Government”. The research work covers six months from June-December, 2025. Within the time of the study, the researcher intends to collect data from the respondents and all those relevant stakeholders in the State, to get adequate information on the subject matter of the research work.

CLARIFICATION OF CONCEPT

Fuel Subsidy Removal

Fuel subsidy is the amount the government has been paying to augment the amount consumers are paying for fuel.

Effective Information Dissemination

In the contest of this write up, effective information dissemination connotes the free flow of information from government, the media and other relevant stake holders in the implementation of fuel subsidy removal policy to the people so that Kogi people will not be misinformed about t the policy.

To Ebijuwa (2005) information dissemination as the processes and techniques of sharing and sending information to the target audience. Raganathan Library Rule (3) states that “Every Book. Its Reader and every person, his or her own book”. This golden rules from Raganathan illustrated the fact that, library is meant to provide information to information users.

Oni (2002) believed that, the world, especially developing nations believed that information is power, because we are in the era of information revolution. This is the period Nigeria and other developing economies have accepted information as valuable resources equitable to natural resources like gold, petrol, coffee etc. Information dissemination techniques are all the means of making information more accessible to the information seekers, such information can only make the needed impact in the life of the people when it is effectively disseminated.

LITERATURE REVIEW

FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL AS A GOVERNMENT POLICY

According to Johnson (2023) in a report by Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) in Nigeria titled “Fuel Subsidy in Nigeria, Issue Challenges and the Way Forward”, the price of petrol was increased by subsidy removal policy of President Asiwaju Bola Tinubu immediately the President was sworn in as the 16th President of Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 29th, 2023.

The announcement of this policy was described by Johnson (2023) as “sudden and unexpected” as it was done without the President discussion with the relevant stakeholders. To him, the policy was not new, because President Goodluck Jonathan attempted to remove fuel subsidy but sparked a lot of criticism.

Muyideen (2023) reported that, President Ahmed Bola Tinubu declared that “fuel subsidy is gone”. He said, in the President’s inaugural speech, the President commended the decision of former President Muhammadu Buhari to phase out petrol subsidy regime which he said, had increasingly favoured the rich over the poor.

Tinubu said the subsidy can no longer justify its ever-increasing costs in the wake of drying resources. The President opined that “we shall re-channel the fund to better investment in the public infrastructures, education, healthcare and job creation that will improve the lives of millions of Nigerians”.

On fuel subsidy removal, Abass (2023) observed that “there will be more revenue for the government an unlocking of about 7 trillion Naira into the Federation Account while reducing the fiscal deficit”. The subsidy removal will also eliminate economic distortions and stimulate

investment. We would see more private investments in private refineries, petrochemicals and fertilizer plants.

To Idowu (2023) the post-subsidy regime would also unlock investments in pipelines, storage facilities, transportation and retail outlets. He further opined that, “smuggling of petroleum product across the borders will come to an end with the market pricing of refined products. It is important to put an end to NNPC

monopoly in the supply of petroleum products. Competition is imperative for subsidy removal to be sustainable”.

In line with fuel subsidy removal issue, Idowu (2023) further stated that, the leadership of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), urged President Tinubu to implement the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) signed by his predecessor into law to achieve the objective of having a petroleum industry that will be accountable, rewarding and transparent in financials, governance and responsiveness to the needs and the yearnings of communities and stakeholders.

Abubakar (2023) opined that the policy of fuel subsidy removal was a good one, but since this policy is going to affect Nigerians, the National Assembly and the House of Representatives should have discussed this policy before the implementation. One thing is to formulate a policy another thing is for that policy to solve societal problems.

Dr. Abubakar Umaru Kari, an Associate Professor of Political Sociology, University of Abuja said the speech of President Tinubu shows rare intent and resolve to take tough decision on fuel subsidy as well as unity and inviolability of the sovereignty of Nigeria. He further added that, “for me it was a good speech: lucid, loaded and replete with key pronouncements, including a few strong policy ramifications but which could also shock and awe”.

Johnson (2023) further discovered that, since the discovery of crude oil in Oloibiri, Bayelsa State in 1956, petrol has remained the mainstay of our economy. Any increase in the price of petrol has tremendous impact on all the sectors of the Nigerian economy. To him diversification of Nigeria’s economy from fuel (petrol) to other sectors, like investing more in agriculture, solid mineral, tourism will increase the rate of economic development, as the removal of fuel subsidy may result to increase in poverty and economic hardship.

According to Audu and Ehoniyotan (2011) “information is power”. It means that, this era of post-fuel subsidy removal, Nigerians, especially Kogi citizens need more information about fuel subsidy removal. Citizens need to be adequately informed about policy that affects their lives directly. The unstable electricity supply has been a serious problem in Nigeria which has been affecting the industrial sector, that most companies now use petrol and diesel engines to power the companies. Removal of fuel subsidy coupled with epileptic power supply can worsen energy crisis in Nigeria.

THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL IN NIGERIA

Effective dissemination of information is defined here as the strategic, transparent, and inclusive communication of government policy and how it can significantly mitigate these negative impacts. These roles are stated as follows:

1. Public Awareness and Education

Public Awareness campaigns that explain economic benefits, address misconceptions, and clarify the governments intentions can reduce resistance (Punch, 2023).

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging civil society organizations, labour unions, and local leaders allows the government to tailor messages and incorporate feedback (Guardian, 2023).

3. Media Strategy

The media plays a central role in shaping public opinion. Messages must be delivered in local languages and cultural contexts (Academia et al, 2023).

4. Transparency and Trust Building

Providing data on how subsidy savings are reinvested builds public trust. The people would like to know how and what the money saved from subsidy removal is utilized, so as to build trust in the government (Premium Times, 2024).

5. Combating Misinformation

A responsive and accurate communication system counters false narratives effectively. There should be a regular, prompt and free flow of information and communication from the government (Academia edu, 2023).

6. Complementary Communication with Social Policies

Dissemination must be coupled with information about social safety nets like conditional cash transfers. Awareness of these measures can prevent social unrest and support vulnerable populations (NESG, 2023).

7. Challenges in Dissemination

Dissemination efforts face challenges such as low public trust in government, digital illiteracy and language diversity. Overcoming these challenges requires institutional capacity building and partnerships (Brand-Crunch, 2020). Effective dissemination of information is not merely a supplementary activity in subsidy reform, it is central to its

success. The Nigerian government must adopt an inclusive, transparent and strategic communication approach to ease the transition from fuel subsidy and achieve long-term development goals.

MITIGATING THE EFFECT OF FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL THROUGH EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

As observed by Raifu & Afolabi (2024), the following are suggested ways of mitigating the effect of fuel subsidy removal through effective information dissemination:

1. Transparent Communication of Rationale

Clarify why subsidies were removed, using relatable terms and data. For transparency's sake and avoidance of doubt and suspicion, unnecessary jargons should be avoided and evidence on how savings are reinvested be provided.

2. Multi-Channel Information Campaigns

Use traditional media (radio, TV), digital platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp), and community for a to ensure inclusive messaging to the entire populace.

3. Highlight Tangible Benefits

Publicize reinvestments of saved funds in visible projects. Share citizen success stories to build trust and buy-in. People want to know and hear what the saved funds are being used for.

4. Engage Influencers and Local Leaders

Partner with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and influencers. Train youth leaders and NGOs for grassroots outreach.

5. Establish Feedback and Support Channels

Create toll-free lines and apps for questions and grievances. Monitor feedback to adapt messaging strategies.

6. Counter Misinformation Rapidly

Deploy rapid response teams and fact-checking alliances to tackle false narratives and prevent panic or unrest.

7. Long-Term Public Education

Incorporate economic policy literacy in civic education and mass media programs. Use creative formats like comics or radio plays to provide entertaining and educative programmes.

POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Ojuola (2006) opined that, when we talk of policy process, it means the various ways in which public policy are formulated. The subject matter of public policy varies, as such, approaches to their formulation differs. To this author, it does not matter which institution is responsible for policy formulation and implementation, but the concern is:

- i. What is the policy about?
- ii. For what reason?
- iii. How was it determined?
- iv. What determines the policy options?
- v. Who are people involved?
- vi. Can the policy succeed in goal attainment? If no, why? If yes, how do we improve the quality of the policy?

It is from the above perspectives that the researcher wishes to evaluate fuel subsidy removal policy. Any public policy can be made in any political system. That is that government has the right to formulate public policy into any political system, be it democracy, dictatorship, autocracy, military, aristocracy or any other system at all (Ayinde, 2006).

To Mahajan (2019) policy is viewed as the action of the government and public policy can be broken into categories of sequential pattern, the process are:

PROBLEM SELECTION – We can ask questions: What are the issues? How does it get into the agenda of the government? They are those problems among many which receive the serious attention of the officials. They are those problems which are made to know to the government for consideration.

EFFICACY OF EFFECTIVE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Ayinde (2006) added that, the importance and the significance of any policy can be determined by policy implementation. The policy implementation stage is also very important, because it is the stage where the actions of the government manifest in form of infrastructural project, rules, laws, regulation etc. To really understand policy implementation, these important questions should be asked:

- i. Who is involved?
- ii. How do we apply the policy to solve societal problems or the particular problem?
- iii. Does the people involved have the qualification and capacity to do a good job?

He further added that, before now, scholars of public policy are of the opinion that once a good policy is formulated, its implementation could not be problematic. It has now been discovered that the major problem confronting public policy is implementation.

In line with the above, the researchers observed that, the removal of fuel subsidy has increased the level of poverty, increase in the cost of living, making life really unbearable to an average Nigerian. In any country why poverty is on the increase, there would be challenges of underdevelopment, insecurity and low level of life expectancy.

CONCEPT OF INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

To Ebijuwa (2005) information dissemination as the processes and techniques of sharing and sending information to the target audience. Raganathan Library Rule (3) states that “Every Book. Its Reader and every person, his or her own book”. This golden rules from Raganathan illustrated the fact that, library is meant to provide information to information users.

Oni (2002) believed that, the world, especially developing nations believed that information is power, because we are in the era of information revolution. This is the period Nigeria and other developing economies have accepted information as valuable resources equitable to natural resources like gold, petrol, coffee etc. Information dissemination techniques are all the means of making information more accessible to the information seekers, such information can only make the needed impact in the life of the people when it is effectively disseminated.

In view of the above, Kogi citizens need adequate information to really appreciate the efforts of the present government at State and National levels, in their efforts to provide the necessary palliatives that can cushion the effects of the hardship created by the policy of fuel subsidy removal. Fagbola (2011) opined that,

libraries, especially academic libraries, have very important roles to play in dissemination of most recent information to the people through its current awareness services and strategies; so that Nigerians can be well informed about the intentions of government on the policy of fuel subsidy removal. This is very important in the sense that, Nigeria is one of the largest countries on the African Continent that occupies a very important position in African politics. There is that belief that Nigeria is a “big brother” to other smaller African countries, and if there is economic crises in Nigeria as a result of the removal of fuel subsidy, which country in Africa has the capacity to absorb Nigerian refugees? The population of Nigeria has been estimated to be above two hundred million people, which shows that no African country can cope with refugees from the large population. Researchers, policy-makers, librarians, information experts and other meaningful Nigerians should then provide adequate information that can move this country forward in this era of post-fuel subsidy removal.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is based on Competitive Economic Theory Model. This model promotes sustained rate of productivity which is able to drive economic growth and consequently increase income and welfare at long run. Before the implementation of fuel subsidy removal policy, government believed that payment of subsidy has become an economic burden on government for over a long period of time and subsidy has it were has no really benefited the common man but the few privileged Nigerian.

It is based on these premises that the president decided to call a spade a spade, by putting an end to fuel subsidy and also allow the private sector to do the fuel business while government provides the regulatory framework.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This involves the procedures for analyzing the raw data obtained through field survey. The procedure used in analyzing of the data involves the use of tables, frequencies, percentages, ranking which would be done statistically.

Agba and Adamu (2015) stated that the objectives of the research work cannot be achieved without the analysis of research data.

Primary Method

This involves the collection of data from the main sources through use of research tools like questionnaires, observation techniques and personal interaction with the respondents.

Secondary Method

This also involves the use of documented sources of information, and other secondary data relevant to the write up

DATA ANALYSIS

This involves the procedures for analyzing the raw data obtained through field survey. The procedure used in analyzing of the data involves the use of tables, frequencies, percentages, ranking which would be done statistically.

Agba and Adamu (2015) stated that the objectives of the research work cannot be achieved without the analysis of research data.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the analysis of data obtained from the research questionnaires, the researchers discovered some findings.

It was discovered from even the comments made by respondents and some articles published on the pages of newspapers in Nigeria, that fuel subsidy removal was actually a policy in the right direction, because of the economic wastage associated with the politics of fuel subsidy. It was also discovered that, the policy has great implications on the socio-economic wellbeing of Nigeria, especially in Kogi State.

Most of the respondents agreed that the news about fuel subsidy removal was sudden alarming and unexpected, because Nigerians are already in hardship from and waiting for President Tinubu to ease the suffering but the reverse was the case.

The researchers also discovered that, the news about fuel subsidy removal spread to all States of the Federation, through radio, television, social media etc., which shows that most Nigerians received the news with shock, immediately after the inaugural speech of Mr. President on May 29, 2023.

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE

This study adds value to existing knowledge and researches on this subject matter. Apart from the immense contribution of the study to knowledge advancement, the study is also tailored towards addressing contemporary socio-economic challenges faced by Kogi people as a result of fuel subsidy removal.

The pains and the hardship of fuel subsidy removal is not just a challenge but an issue of national interest that deserve more researches to proffer solution to this national problem.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, an important policy of fuel subsidy removal, should have been adequately discussed by the States, National Assembly and other relevant stakeholders, to look at the challenges, advantages and the way forward, but since this was not done by the government before the announcement of the policy, the best way to ameliorate the implications on the citizens, is to carry the people along through effective information dissemination strategy to assure the people that government palliative measures to cushion the effects of this present hardship created by implementation of government policy.

In this present democratic dispensation, people should be well informed about how the policy of government promotes good governance. As long as the researchers have stated it in the Literature Review that government is a social contract between the leaders and the subjects, so efforts should be intensified so the citizens know the future benefits of fuel subsidy removal, in the areas of education, health, security, infrastructural development etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As we all know that the removal of fuel subsidy is a policy that has created some socio-economic challenges that Nigerians need to cope with, it is a contemporary challenge that demands solutions. As part of the contribution of the researchers in providing the way forward, these recommendations are put forward:

1. Government should be more transparent in the area of adequate information dissemination, as a means of letting people know the strategies of government in easing the pains of fuel subsidy removal.
2. As a matter of policy there should be prudent accounting systems in the management of the revenue generated from the policy, such accounts should be known so that stakeholders can really know that, there would be gains after all the economic hardship.
3. Palliative measures should be put in place in all States and Local Government Areas to reduce the suffering of the people.
4. Such palliative measures should not be meant for civil servants alone, or the politicians, but for the common people, especially the vulnerable groups.
5. Government at all levels should enhance maximum productivity in agriculture to ensure food security, as the removal of fuel subsidy has taken food out of the reach of the poor.

6. Citizens should also understand the fact that they need to cut down their luxuries, to cope with the present economic hardship occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy.
7. The citizens need adequate security, through the proceeds of fuel subsidy removal, efforts should be made to improve the security of the citizens, and reduce the present rate of armed robbery, kidnapping etc.
8. Since the price of fuel is on the high side, there is need to reduce power failure so that industries depending on fuel can fall back to electrical energy.
9. As a means of carrying citizens along, more programmes and discussions should be on our radio and television stations to update citizens about the way forward.
10. In this post-fuel subsidy removal era, more roads should be prepared, more infrastructure provided as a means of raising the standard of living of Nigerians.
11. More educational facilities should be provided at all levels from the proceeds of fuel subsidy removal.
12. Health is wealth! Efforts should be intensified by the health sector to improve healthcare delivery services, to reduce self-medication killing Nigerians as a result of their inability to pay for hospital bills and medication.
13. Because the policy of fuel subsidy removal affects almost all the citizens; the researchers also recommend further research in this direction.

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