

# EXECUTIVE WATCH

A Public Assessment Of President Olusegun Obasanjo's  
Government Policy Statements And Actions

## Nigerians Oppose Deregulation of The Petroleum Sector



April 2001

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...promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression

# **Executive Watch**

**A Public Assessment Of President Olusegun Obasanjo's  
Government Policy Statements And Actions**

**April 2001**



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## **Other Publications by Media Rights Agenda (MRA)**

- \* *Media Rights Monitor* (Monthly Journal) published since 1995
- \* Annual Reports on the state of the Nigerian Media
  - + *Sentenced to Silence* 1998
  - + *Back from the Brink* 1999
  - + *A Harvest of Blooms* 2000
- \* Other reports and publications
  - + *Unshackling the Nigerian Media: An Agenda for Reform*, July 1997 (In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)
- \* *Media Scorecard* (Report on the Print Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- \* *Airwaves Scorecard* (Report on the Broadcast Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- \* *Unlocking Nigeria's Closet of Secrecy*, August 2000 (A Report on the Campaign for a Freedom of Information Act in Nigeria)
- \* *Broadcasting In Nigeria: Unlocking The Airwaves*, February 2001 (A Report on the Framework for Broadcasting and Telecommunications in Nigeria - In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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**Mercy Epete Jones**, Secretary/Receptionist at MRA, provided the secretarial support for the report.

The report was edited by **Edetaen Ojo**, MRA's Executive Director, who supervised the project.

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## INTRODUCTION

The return of civil rule in Nigeria after more than 15 years of military rule came with the promises of civil liberties, freedoms, respect for rule of law as well as constitutional and participatory democracy. By its nature, democracy as a system of governance requires active participation and regular intervention through commentaries, questions, suggestions and debates by every section of the society.

But the constant interruption of the democratic process in Nigeria by successive military regimes eroded the culture of effective participation in governance in the country. Elected officers at the Federal, States and Local Councils show, by their utterances, attitudes, and actions tendencies of military officers holding public offices. With government's seeming disregard for interaction, there are fears of alienation by government, which portend grave danger for the new experiment at democratization.

Majority of the civil populace who are not consulted and are barely included in the scheme of governance are those mainly affected by the discrepancy between government policy plans and implementation. A common reaction is a feeling by the governed that there is no difference between military dictatorship and democracy as practised in Nigeria. Experiments on democracy have seen three unsuccessful models, all of which failed largely due to the lack of communication between the leaders and the governed.

However, for the current experiment to yield dividend, there has to be a way of measuring the undercurrents of reactions from civil society. There needs to be established a forum through which the people can effectively participate in the daily events that shape the present and define the future or, at the very least, be given an opportunity to have a say on such matters. The culture has to be developed as a way of giving assurance to civil society that democracy is indeed, a government of the people by the people and for the people, not merely by proclamation.

The Executive Watch is designed to open a communication line for civil society to effectively participate in the growth and sustenance of democracy. Through the Executive Watch project, Media Rights Agenda monitors the activities and policies of the Executive arm of Government, particularly the Presidency, to ascertain the popularity such activities and policies enjoy among a wide spectrum of Nigerians, the overall objectives being to ensure greater public participation in governance and create a feedback mechanism for the government to enable it gauge its popularity and the acceptance of its policies.

Media Rights Agenda began the Executive Watch as a pilot project in September 1999 when it began a publication of monthly reports in a modest form. This is the twenty-second issue of the Executive Watch. Before now, the questionnaires were administered only in Lagos State in assessing the way citizens view the policies and activities of the Federal Executive. The survey was carried out only in Lagos as a result of lack of resources to conduct a more nationally representative survey.

However, beginning from January 2001, the scope of the survey has been widened to include Benin City in Edo State, representing southern minorities; Port Harcourt in Rivers State, representing the Niger-Delta area; Enugu in Enugu State, representing eastern Nigeria; Ibadan in Oyo State, representing western Nigeria, Kaduna and Kano States, representing northern Nigeria; Lagos in Lagos State, the melting pot of Nigeria; and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

## **OBEJECTIVE**

The specific objectives of the Executive Watch project are:

- \* To regularly monitor and document the discrepancies in government's policies and actions and thereby provide a primary source of information on these for the local and international communities on public reactions and responses to them.
- \* To provide a framework for the Nigerian government, its departments and agencies to assess their performance in relation to their policies and their implementation, and understand the public attitude to such policies and governmental action.
- \* To provide the citizens a forum to respond to and highlight areas of distortions in government policies and their implementation and contribute to the effective management of these distortions and thereby participate in the governance process.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TOPIC**

### **Deregulation Of Prices Of Petroleum Products**

Any moment from now, Nigeria may be engulfed in a debilitating social and economic crisis. The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) undertook a nation wide mobilisation of its members, civil society organizations and Nigerians generally, for a strike action over the decision of President Olusegun Obasanjo's government to deregulate the prices of petroleum products.

President Obasanjo said petrol would not cost more than N40 per liter in the planned deregulation. He argued that the attendant increase in the prices of petroleum products following the withdrawal of "subsidy" would make the commodities less attractive to smugglers and stop its "wasteful" use by Nigerians. The President also said the deregulation would enable the government save over N200 billion, which it claims it uses to subsidize the prices of petroleum products. This money, he said, would be used to improve the standard of basic infrastructure in Nigeria.

The position of the NLC and Nigerians opposed to deregulation is that the action would not only increase the cost of petroleum beyond the reach of the vast majority of Nigerians, it would result in a spiraling effect on the cost of other products and services, due to the central importance of petroleum products in economic and social activities. In any case, the NLC and Nigerians opposed to deregulation insist that there is no subsidy on petroleum products in the first instance and any such talk is fraudulent. Further, they say over time when previous governments had to increase fuel prices, the "savings" have not been used for poverty alleviating programmes as promised by these governments, and there is no reason for them to believe things will be different this time.

If President Obasanjo carries through the proposed deregulation leading to increase in petroleum products' prices, it would be the second time in the twenty months of his administration so far that the prices would increase. In June 2000 the President increased the prices of petrol from N20 to N30 per liter. But it took the resolute resistance of Nigerians to force the government to reduce it to N22 per liter.

The survey had eight questions, each of which was intended to establish various issues. Among these were whether respondents believed there is subsidy on petroleum products, and if they support the intention of government to deregulate the prices of petroleum products.

It also sought to establish from respondents who do not support the deregulation plan, whether they can suggest alternative ways to guide the government in order not to carry out its plans.

Beyond these, the survey sought to establish whether Nigerians, both those who support deregulation and those opposed to it, trust the government to use the money realised from the removal of "subsidy" for the provision of social services, as the government has promised to do, and whether Nigerians feel that the previous increases in the prices of petroleum products truly yielded dividends for the society. This question was asked based on the past experience of Nigerians with former regimes.

Finally it was considered necessary to establish whether respondents feel the President can plead authoritative expediency of political power and vantage knowledge to proceed with the deregulation plan when a vast number of Nigerians say they do not want it.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### **Nigerians Reject President Obasanjo's Plan To Deregulate The Petroleum Sector**

Nigerians, already burdened with a plethora of economic problems, have appealed to President Olusegun Obasanjo to jettison his plans to deregulate the petroleum sector of the country's economy. The move, they say, would result in a substantial increase in the prices of petroleum products, add greatly to the burdens they presently face and irrevocably worsen their economic fortunes, given the centrality of fuel to economic life of the country.

Rather than deregulate the sector, which a large majority of Nigerians believe would automatically lead to a spiralling effect on the prices of other goods and services, they advised that the government should check the excesses of petroleum products marketers, whom they accuse of hoarding and diverting the products to neighbouring countries, by ensuring vigilance and stiff penalties for culprits. They also called on the government to ensure that all the nation's refineries are optimally functional while it should also encourage the establishment of private refineries.

They advised that the government should invest massively in other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, science and technology, and solid minerals, ensure effective and efficient distribution of petroleum products and shun the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, both of which they accuse of advising the government to deregulate the sector in particular and the economy in general.

As an indication that the resistance to the deregulation exercise may have been informed by other reasons, most of the respondents in answer to a question which asked whether they trust government to use the money realised from the removal of "subsidy" for the provision of social services as the government has consistently assured, said they do not.

Similarly, an overwhelming number of respondents indicted previous governments as having failed to use put to good and truly beneficial use the money realised from previous increases in the prices of petroleum products.

Responses to a question whether respondents think Nigerians are wasteful in fuel consumption as Prsedident Obasanjo had alleged, showed that a large majority of respondents do not share this opinion.

Respondents were equally unwilling to grant President Obasanjo refuge under a plea of prerogative of office or vantage knowledge to proceed with his plan to deregulate the petroleum sector, when the vast majority of them (Nigerians), have raised objections to such an exercise.

In response to a question which asked whether respondents think it is right for the President to insist on the planned deregulation when an overwhelming number of Nigerians say they do not want it, a majority of the respondents said it is wrong.

## OUTLINE OF FINDINGS

The issue whether or not the Nigerian government subsidises petroleum products, has been a subject of controversy between the government and Nigerians for a long time, and has been a political banana peeling for most Nigerian governments. Every successive government has continued to maintain that it subsidises petroleum products and has at various points attempted to remove such alleged subsidy. But Nigerians have on their own part continued to refute any suggestion that tends to imply the existence of a subsidy on petroleum products. They have, therefore, resisted attempts to remove such subsidy, although most often the governments have had their way.

After a highly resisted attempt to raise the prices of fuel in June last year, which eventually led a marginal increase of N2, President Obasanjo recently indicated his government's intention to deregulate the petroleum sector. The plan is seen by many as a surreptitious move to raise the pump prices of these products and the organised labour and many Nigerians have kicked against the attempt.

In the light of this, the survey sought the opinion of respondents on a wide range of issues related thereto.

The survey was conducted between April 10 and 24, and involved the administration of 8,000 questionnaires on Nigerians from all walks of life in eight major cities drawn from the main regions of Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The cities are: Lagos, Ibadan, Benin, Kaduna, Kano, Enugu and Port Harcourt. One thousand copies of the questionnaires were administered in each city covered in the exercise, making a total of 8,000. Out of these, 6,291 questionnaires were completed and returned.

Majority of Nigerians, who responded to the survey, precisely 4,202, representing 66.8 per cent, said they do not believe that there is a subsidy on petroleum products, a position the main organised opposition to the deregulation plans, the NLC, has continued to maintain. However, 1,983 of the respondents, representing 31.5 per cent, said they believe the government presently subsidises petroleum products. The remaining 104 respondents, representing 1.7 per cent, were undecided.

On a city -by-city basis, the pattern of response shows that majority of respondents in each of the eight cities, believed that government does not subsidise petroleum products.

In Abuja, where there were a total of 960 respondents, 567 of them, representing 58.5 per cent, answered 'No', indicating that they do not believe there is a subsidy on petroleum products, while 399 others representing 41.1 per cent, answered 'Yes', indicating that they believed that government subsidises the prices of petroleum products. However, an insignificant number of respondents, precisely four, representing 0.4 per cent, were undecided.

In Benin, out of the total of 675 respondents, 555, representing 82.5 per cent, answered 'No' as against 110 respondents, representing 16.4 per cent, who answered 'Yes'. However, seven respondents, representing one per cent, were undecided.

In Enugu, 630 respondents, representing 71.6 per cent, said 'No' against 241 respondents, representing 27.4 per cent, who said 'Yes'. Nine others, representing 1 per cent, were undecided.

In Ibadan where there were 990 respondents, 586 answered 'No' against 291 respondents who answered 'Yes'. These represent 65.1 per cent and 32.3 per cent respectively. However, 23 respondents, representing 2.6 per cent, were undecided.

In Kaduna City, there were a total of 767 respondents, out of which there were 432 who answered 'No' and 304 respondents who answered 'Yes'. These represent 56.3 per cent and 39.6 per cent respectively. Thirty-one respondents, representing 4.1 per cent, were, however, undecided.

In Kano, there were a total of 654 respondents. Out of these, 435 respondents, representing 66.5 per cent, answered 'No', as against 202 respondents, representing 30.9 per cent, who answered 'Yes'. Seventeen of the respondents in Kano, representing 2.6 per cent, were undecided.

Out of the total of 750 respondents in Lagos 469, representing 61.7 per cent, answered 'No', as against 291 respondents, representing 38.3 per cent, who answered 'Yes'.

Port Harcourt recorded a total of 688 respondents. Out of this total, 530 respondents, representing 77 per cent, answered 'No', as against 145 respondents, representing 21.1 per cent, who answered 'Yes'. Thirteen respondents, representing 1.9 per cent, were, however, undecided.

Regarding the question whether respondents support the plans by President Obasanjo to deregulate the petroleum sector, 4,548 respondents answered "No", while 1,737, answered "Yes". This stands at 27.7 per cent for deregulation as against 72.2 per cent of respondents who do not approve of it. However, four respondents were undecided as to whether they support the proposed deregulation of the petroleum sector by President Obasanjo.

On a city-by-city basis, the response pattern similarly shows that majority of respondent in each of the cities did not support government's intention to deregulate the prices of petroleum products. But in Ibadan, Abuja and Kaduna, there are clearly significant approvals for the government to proceed with the deregulation exercise.

In Ibadan for instance, out of the total number of 890 respondents, 476, representing 52.9 per cent, support deregulation, while 424 respondents, representing 47.1 per cent, do not support it. This shows a marginal difference of 5.8 per cent.

In Abuja, out of the total of 960 respondents, 580, representing 59.8 per cent, answered 'No' to government's deregulation plan, while 386 respondents, representing 39.8 per cent, said 'Yes'. Four others, representing 0.4 per cent, were undecided.

In Kaduna, out of the total of 767 respondents, 527, representing 68.7 per cent answered 'No', as against 240 respondents, representing 31.3 per cent, who answered 'Yes'.

However, Benin, Enugu, Kano and Port Harcourt, show a highly unfavourable response to the government's deregulation plan.

For instance, in Benin, out of the total of 672 respondents, 593, representing 88.2 per cent, said 'No' to deregulation, as against 79 respondents, representing 11.8 per cent, who said 'Yes'.

In Enugu, out of the total of 840 respondents, 671, representing 76.2 per cent, said 'No' to deregulation, as against 209 respondents, representing 23.8 per cent, who said 'Yes'.

Out of the total of 654 from Kano, 527, representing 68.7 per cent said 'No' to deregulation, as against 240 respondents, representing 31.3 per cent, who said 'Yes'.

Lagos, with a total of 688 respondents, has 640 of them, representing 84.2 per cent saying 'no' to deregulation, as against 120 respondents, representing 15.8 per cent, who answered 'Yes'.

Out of the total of 675 respondents in Port Harcourt, 596, representing 86.6 per cent, said 'No' to deregulation, as against 92 respondents, representing 13.4 per cent, who said 'Yes'.

Respondents, who do not support the deregulation of petroleum products in the light of the reasons given by the government, suggested a number of actions by government as alternatives. They advised that the government should check the excesses of petroleum product marketers, whom they accuse of hoarding and diverting the products to neighbouring countries, by ensuring vigilance and stiff penalties for culprits. They also called on the government to ensure that all the nation's refineries are optimally functional while it should also encourage the establishment of private refineries.

They advised that the government should invest massively in other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, science and technology, and solid minerals, ensure effective and efficient distribution of petroleum products and shun the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, both of which they accuse of advising the government to deregulate the sector in particular and the economy in general.

Specifically, 2,087 respondents advised government to check the excesses of petroleum products marketers such as hoarding and diverting the products to neighbouring countries, by ensuring greater vigilance and stiff penalties for those involved in the practice; 629 respondents advised government to ensure that all the nations refineries are functional while it should also encourage the establishment of private refineries and 555 respondents suggested that Government should invest massively in other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, science and technology, and solid minerals; 137 respondents said the government should ensure effective and efficient distribution of petroleum products; while 19 respondents advised the government to shun the dictates of IMF and the World Bank, whom they believe has advised the government to deregulate the petroleum sector.

The remaining 153 respondents, who did not support the deregulation plan, were undecided and some responses were not usable.

However, among the 1,739 respondents who support the plan by President Obasanjo to deregulate the petroleum sector, 399 believe that the exercise would stop smuggling and halt Nigerians' wasteful use of the products; 371 believe it would save government a huge sum of money, and 766 others believe the exercise would yield both results. Two hundred and six other respondents were undecided.

As an indication that the resistance to the deregulation exercise may have been informed by other reasons, most of the respondents in answer to a question which asked whether they trust government to use the money realised from the removal of "subsidy" for the provision of social services as the government has consistently assured, said they do not.

Specifically, 4,665 of the total respondents said they do not trust government to use the money realised from the removal of "subsidy" for the provision of social services. One thousand six hundred and seventeen respondents said they trust the government, while nine others were undecided.

In percentage term, 74.2 per cent do not trust the government and 25.8 per cent trust it.

On a city-by-city analysis, the response pattern also show clearly that the distrust for government assurances to use the money realised from the removal of "subsidy", for the provision of social services, cuts across all the cities. There are, however, exception in the case of Ibadan, where the majority of respondents express trust on the government, and Abuja, where the response pattern shows a significant trust for it.

In Ibadan, contrary to the preponderant view of respondents in other cities, majority of respondents, specifically 568, representing 63.1 per cent, said they trust the government to use the money realised from removal of subsidy for the provision of social services, while 332 other respondents, representing 36.9 per cent, distrust the government.

In Abuja, 359 respondents, representing 37 per cent, said they trusted the government, while 602 respondents, representing 62.1 per cent, said they do not. However, nine respondents, representing 0.9 per cent, were undecided.

However, in Benin, only 88 respondents, representing 13 per cent, trust the government, while 584 others, representing 87 per cent, do not.

In Enugu, 190 respondents, representing 21.6 per cent, expressed trust in the government, while 690 respondents, representing 78.4 per cent, do not trust it.

In Kaduna, 210 respondents, representing 27.4 per cent, said they trust the government, while 557 others, representing 72.6 per cent, said they did not.

In Kano, 110 respondents, representing 16.8 per cent, trust the government, as against 544 respondents, representing 83.9 per cent, who do not.

In Lagos, 25 respondents, representing 3.3 per cent, trust the government, as against 735 respondents, representing 96.7 per cent, who do not.

In Port Harcourt, 67 respondents, representing 9.7 per cent, trust the government, while 621 others, representing 90.3 per cent, do not trust it.

Similarly, an overwhelming number of respondents indicted previous governments as having failed to use put to good and truly beneficial use the money realised from previous increases in the prices of petroleum products.

Out of the total number of respondents, 5,384, representing 85.6 per cent, said previous increases in the prices of petroleum products have not yielded dividends for the society; 833 respondents, representing 13.2 per cent, said previous increases in the prices of petroleum products have yielded dividends; and 74 respondents, representing 1.2 per cent, were undecided.

This response pattern cuts across the eight cities polled in the survey.

Responses to a question whether respondents think Nigerians are wasteful in fuel consumption as President Obasanjo had alleged, showed that a large majority of respondents do not share this opinion.

Out of the total number of respondents, 5,089 respondents, representing 80.9 per cent, said Nigerians are not wasteful in fuel consumption, while 1,104 others, representing 17.5 per cent, said Nigerians are wasteful in fuel consumption.

This opinion cuts across all the cities polled in the survey.

However, a significant percentage of respondents in Abuja and Kaduna, share President Obasanjo's view. Specifically, 345 respondents in Abuja, representing 35.6 per cent, and 228 respondents in Kaduna, representing 29.7 per cent, respectively share President Obasanjo's view.

Respondents were equally unwilling to allow President Obasanjo take refuge under a plea of prerogative of office or vantage knowledge to proceed with his plan to deregulate the petroleum sector, when a majority of them (Nigerians), have raised objections to such an exercise.

In response to a question which asked whether respondents think it is right for the President to insist on the planned deregulation when the overwhelming number of Nigerians say they do not want it, most of the respondents said it is wrong.

For example, 5,203 respondents, representing 82.7 per cent, of the total number of respondents, do not think it is right. But 1,079 respondents, representing 17.2 per cent, do not, however, feel it is wrong for the President to overrule Nigerians. Nine respondents, representing 0.1 per cent, were undecided.

A city-by-city breakdown of the responses shows that except for Abuja, Ibadan and Kaduna, where 29.3, per cent, 27.4 per cent and 21.9 per cent of respondents respectively say President Obasanjo can overrule the agitation by the large majority of Nigerians, generally, objections to President Obasanjo's overruling of popular view is overwhelming.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For this survey, 8,000 questionnaires were produced and administered out of which 6,291 were returned. This number represents 78.6 per cent.

One thousand questionnaires were administered in each of the eight cities covered under this exercise. These include Benin City, Enugu, Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Lagos, Port Harcourt and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The survey was conducted between April 10 and 24, 2000. The questionnaires for this survey contained eight structured questions. Six of the questions were close-ended, requiring respondents to indicate either 'Yes' or 'No' and the two others required respondents to state their responses in their own words.

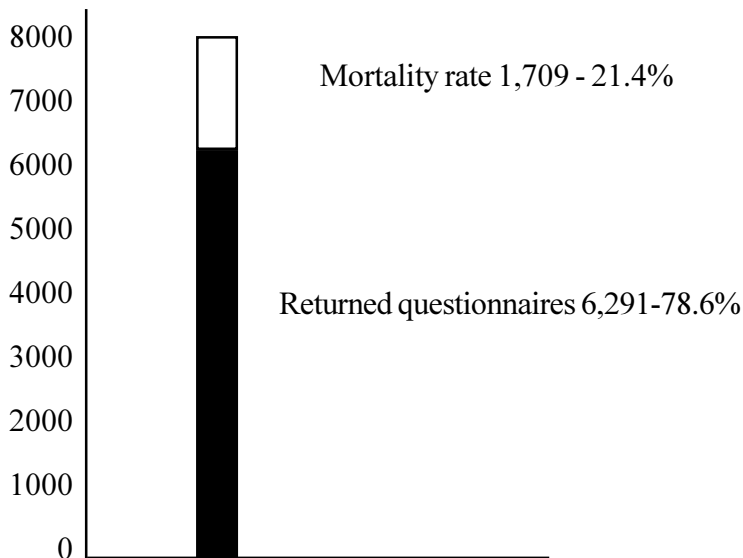
The questionnaires were distributed among Nigerians of 18 years and above, both male and female. It also deliberately attempted to capture, in significant ratio, people of three broad educational background, i.e. No formal education to primary school education level; post primary education level and post secondary education level.

Respondents who do not possess sufficient literacy ability were assisted by MRA's researchers to read and interpret the questions and elect appropriate options according to the preferences of the respondents concerned.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RATE OF RETURN / MORTALITY

### ACHIEVED SAMPLE

Sample sizes Sample groups	Nos of questionnaires administered	Nos of questionnaires received and %	Nos of questionnaires not received and %
Abuja	1,000	970 97%	30 3%
Benin City	1,000	672 67.2%	328 32.8%
Enugu	1,000	880 88%	120 12%
Ibadan	1,000	900 90%	100 10%
Kaduna	1,000	767 76.7%	233 23.3%
Kano	1,000	654 65.4%	346 34.6%
Lagos	1,000	760 76%	240 24%
Port Harcourt	1,000	688 68.8%	312 31.2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Cummulative 8,000</b>	<b>Cummulative % 6,291 78.6%</b>	<b>Cummulative % 1,709 21.4%</b>



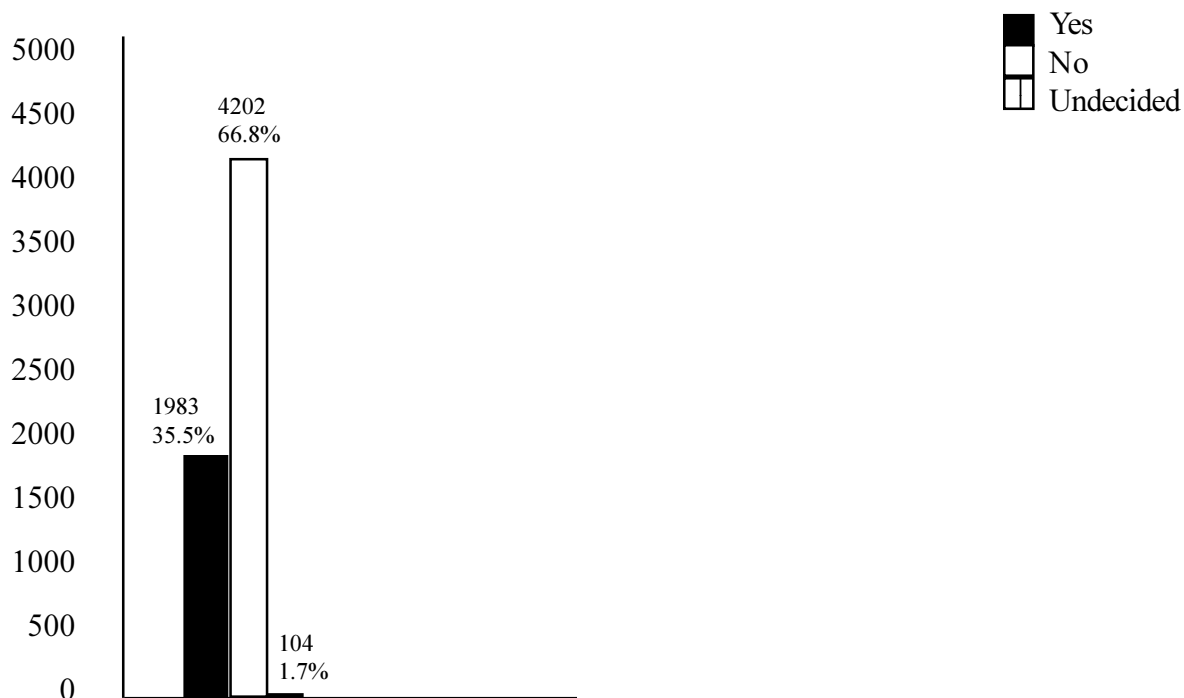


## Questions

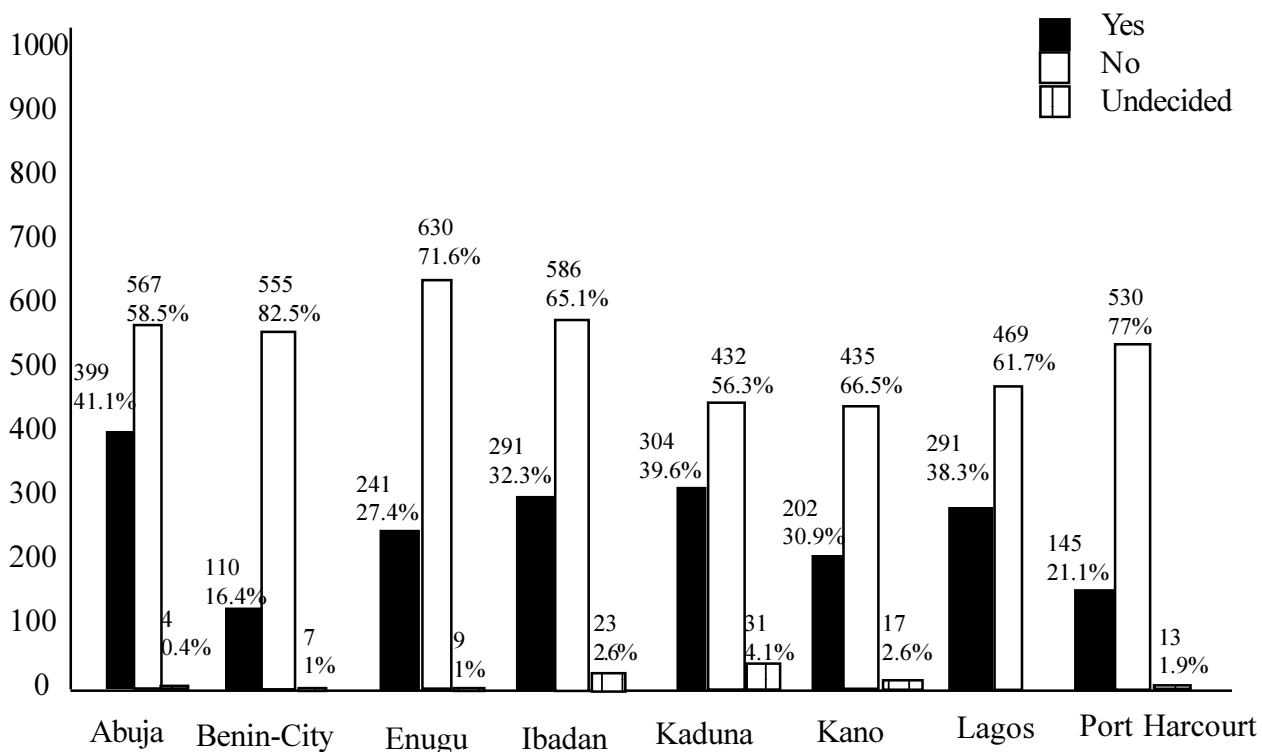
1. From the explanation so far, do you believe there is subsidy on petroleum products?

Yes No

### AGGREGATE RESPONSES

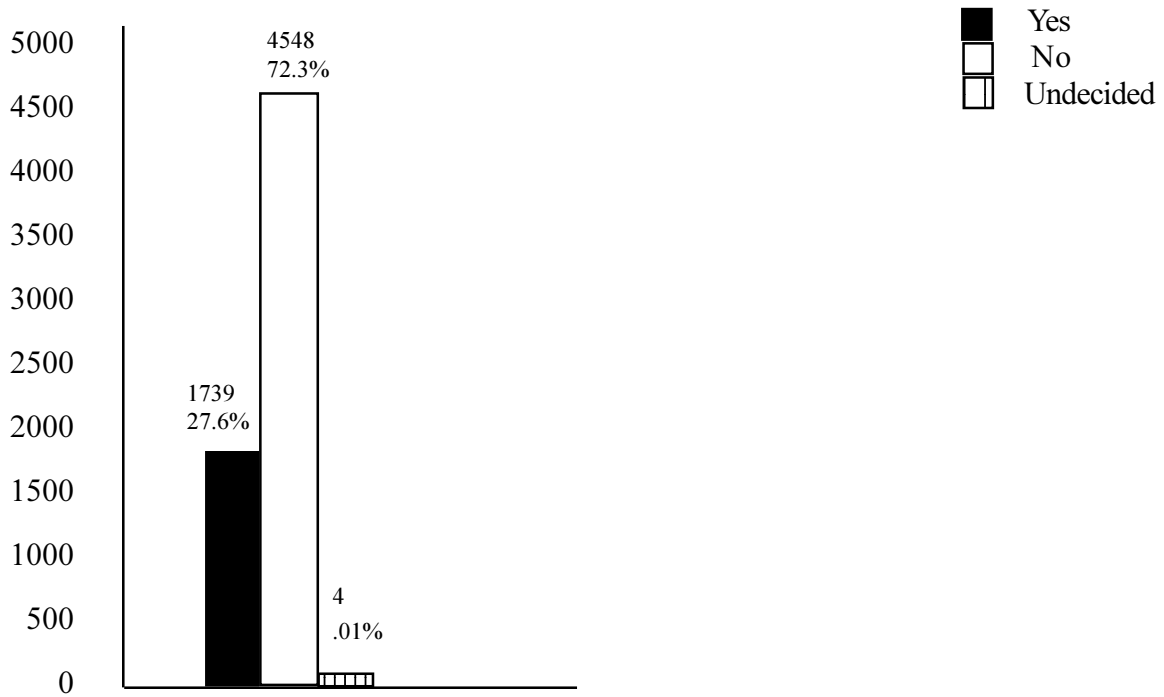


### CITY-BY-CITY RESPONSES

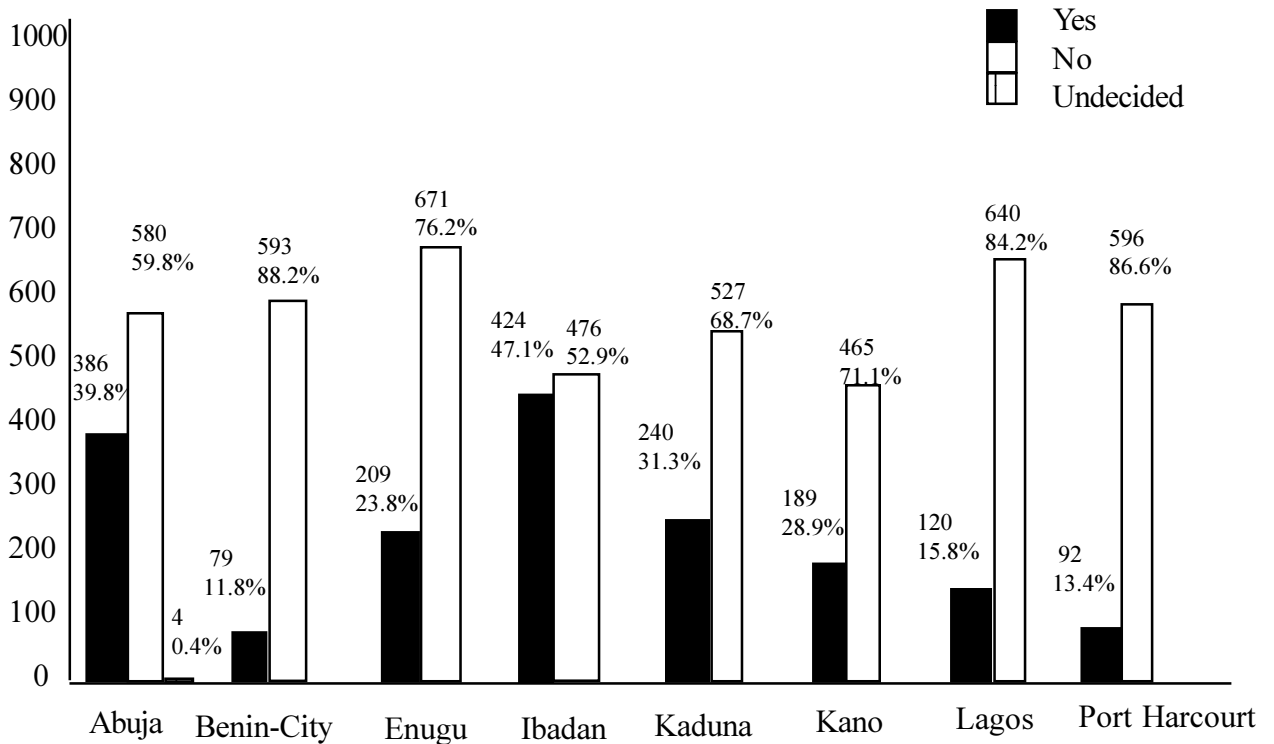


2. Do you support government's intention to 'deregulate' the prices of petroleum products?  
 Yes No

AGGREGATE RESPONSES



CITY-BY-CITY RESPONSES



Q3. If your answer to question No. 2 is ‘No’, can you suggest alternatives to the deregulation of petroleum products in the light of the reasons given by the government?

#### AGGREGATE RESPONSES

<b>Alternatives</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
1. Government should check the excesses of petroleum products marketers, such as hoarding and diversion of the products to neighbouring countries, by ensuring vigilance and stiff penalties for culprits.	2,087
2. Government should ensure that all the refineries are functional ,while it should also encourage the establishment of private ones.	629
3. Government should invest in other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, technology and solid minerals	555
4. Government should ensure effective and efficient distribution of petroleum products	137
5. Government should ensure that ill-gotten wealth are recovered from corrupt public officials, while the amount of money already recovered should be disclosed and utilised	46
6. Government should shun the dictates of IMF and the World Bank	19
7. Undecided and unusable responses	1,075
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,548</b>

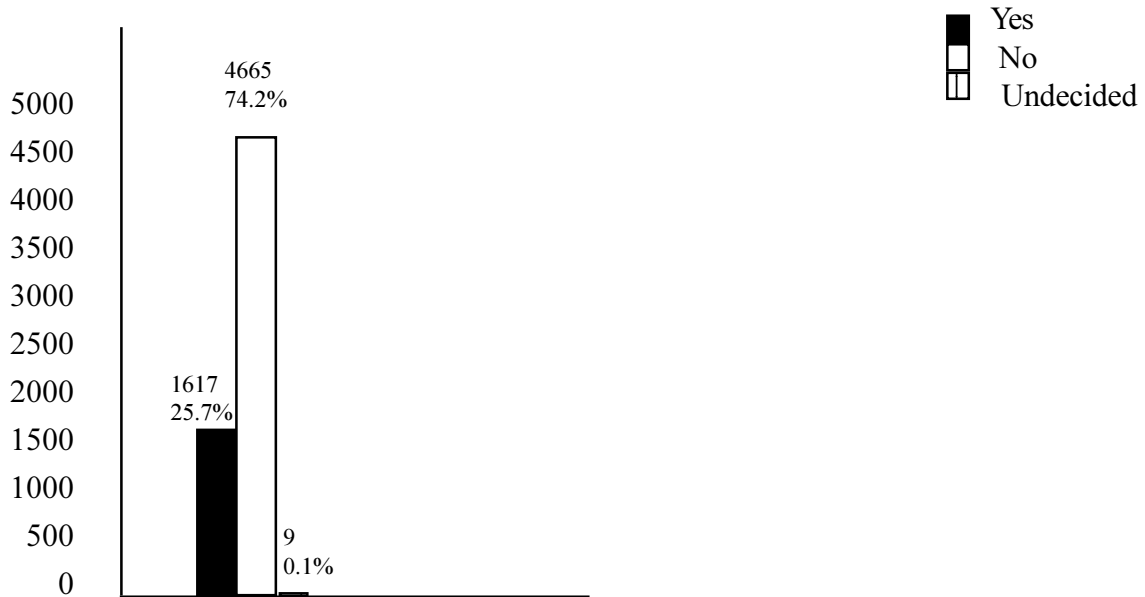
Q4. If your answer to Q2 is ‘Yes’, do you believe it would truly (tick whichever is applicable)

#### AGGREGATE RESPONSES

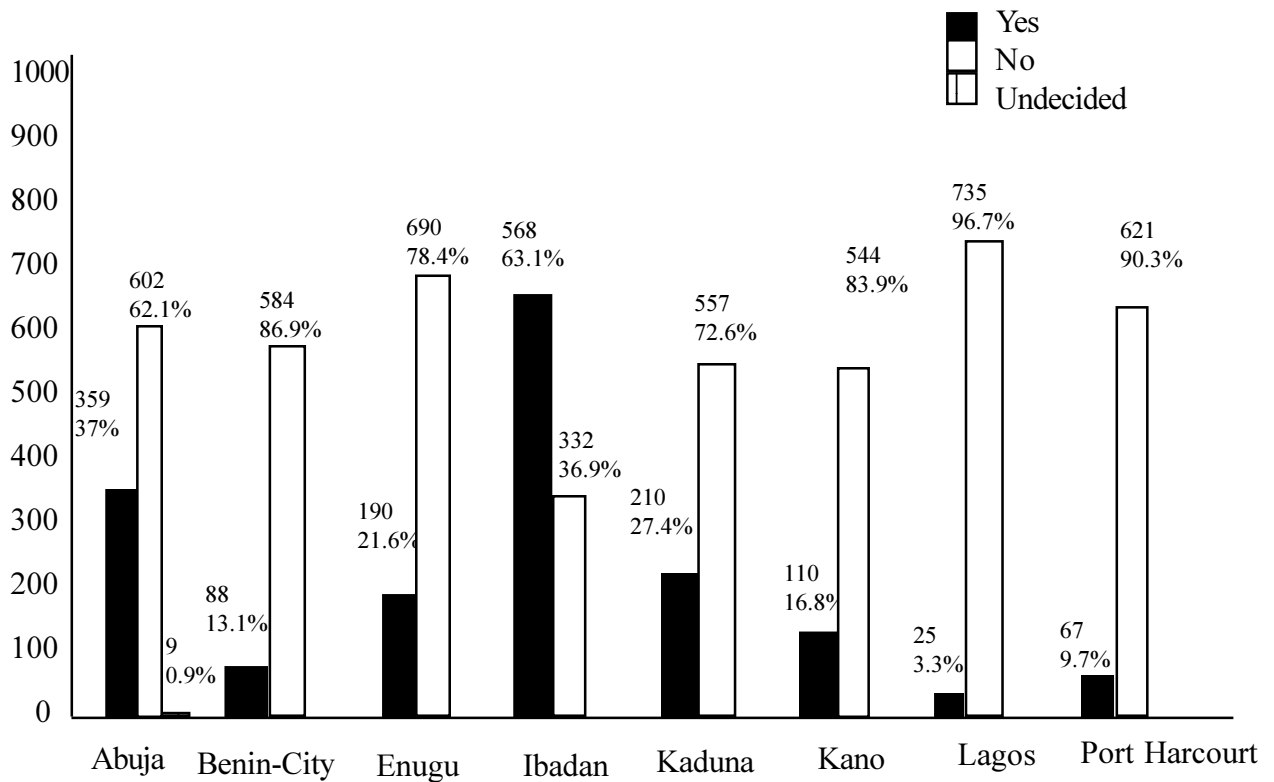
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
1. Stop smuggling and halt Nigerians’s wasteful use of the products	399
2. Save government a huge sum of money	371
3. All of the above	766
4. Undecided	206
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,739</b>

Q5. Do you trust government to use the money realised from the removal of subsidy for the provision of social services?

AGGREGATE RESPONSES

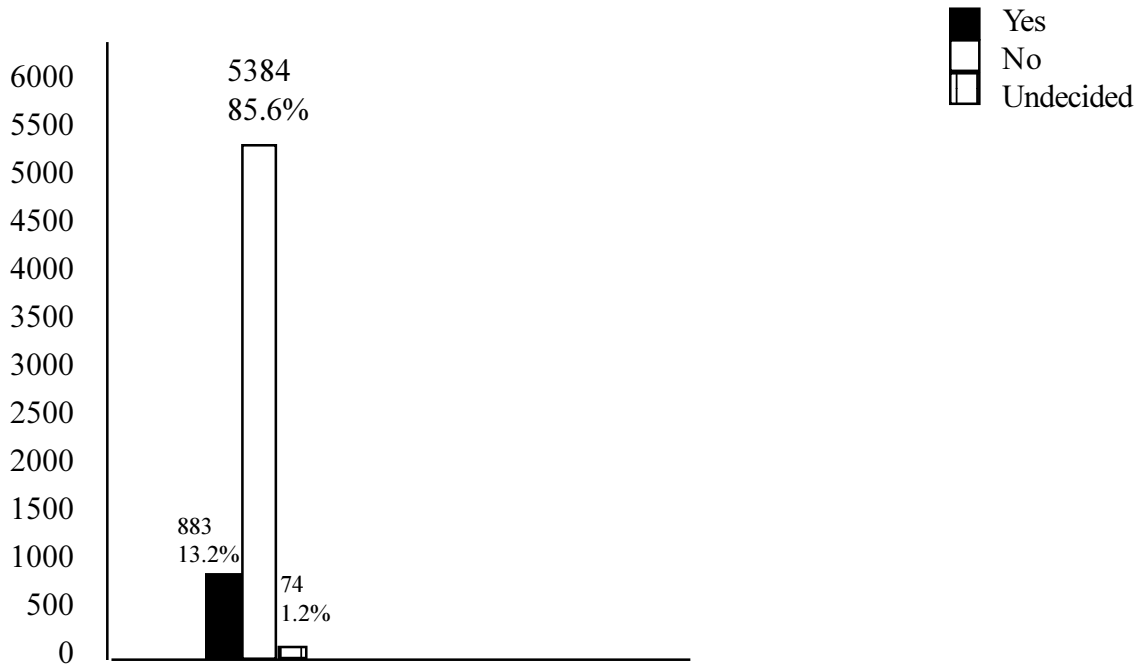


CITY-BY-CITY RESPONSES

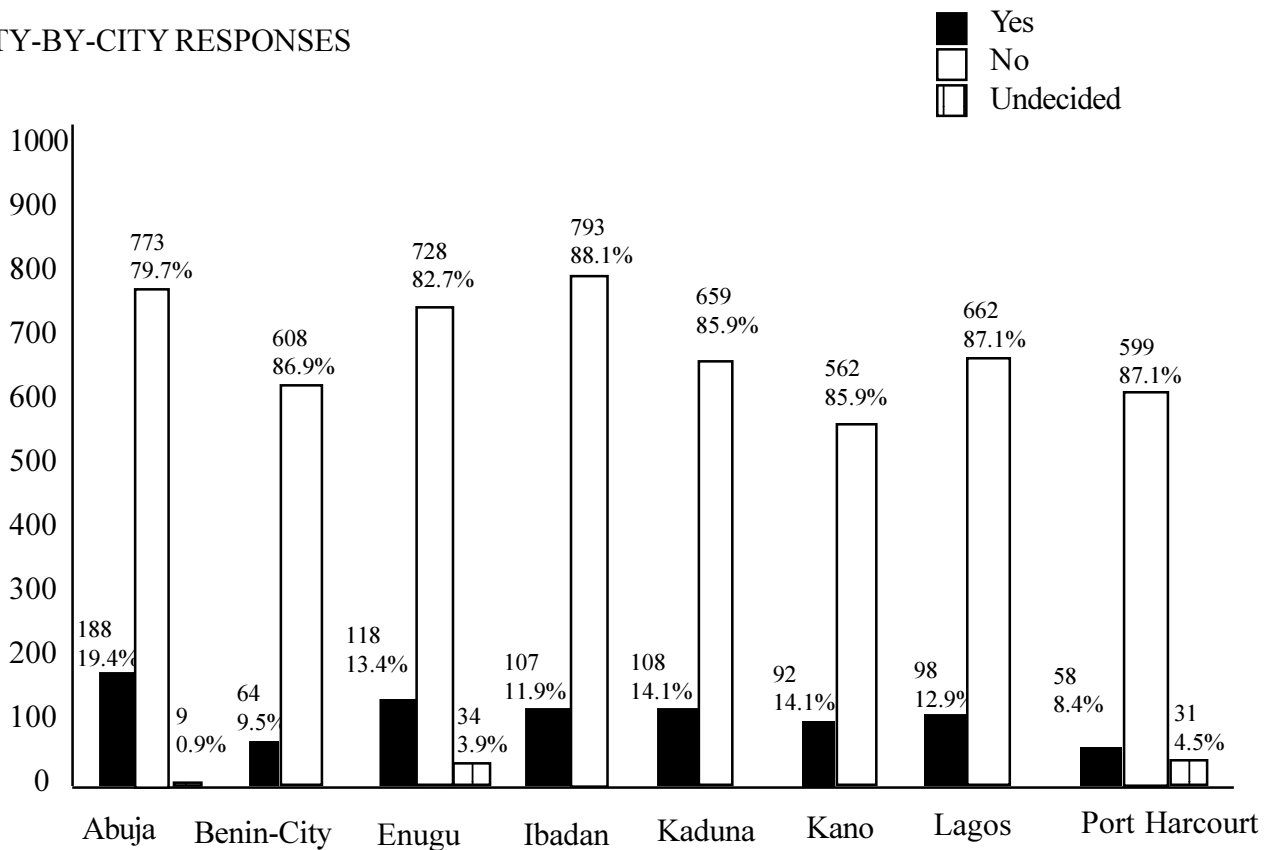


6. Would you say previous increases in the prices of petroleum products have truly yielded dividends for the society? Yes No

AGGREGATE RESPONSES

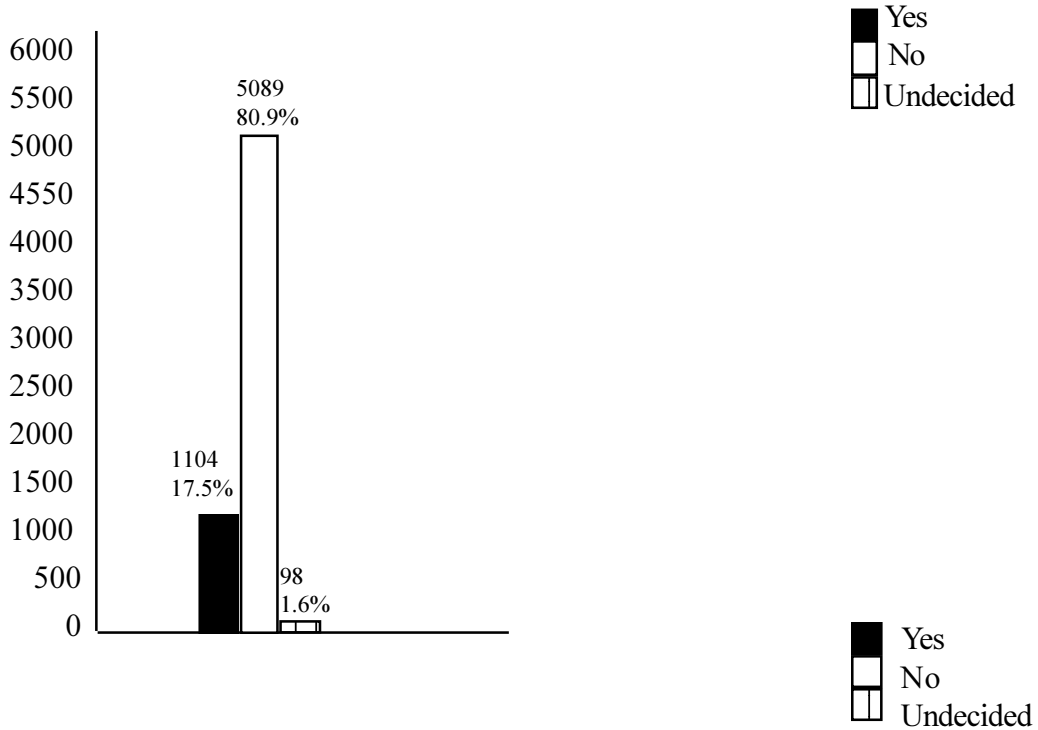


CITY-BY-CITY RESPONSES

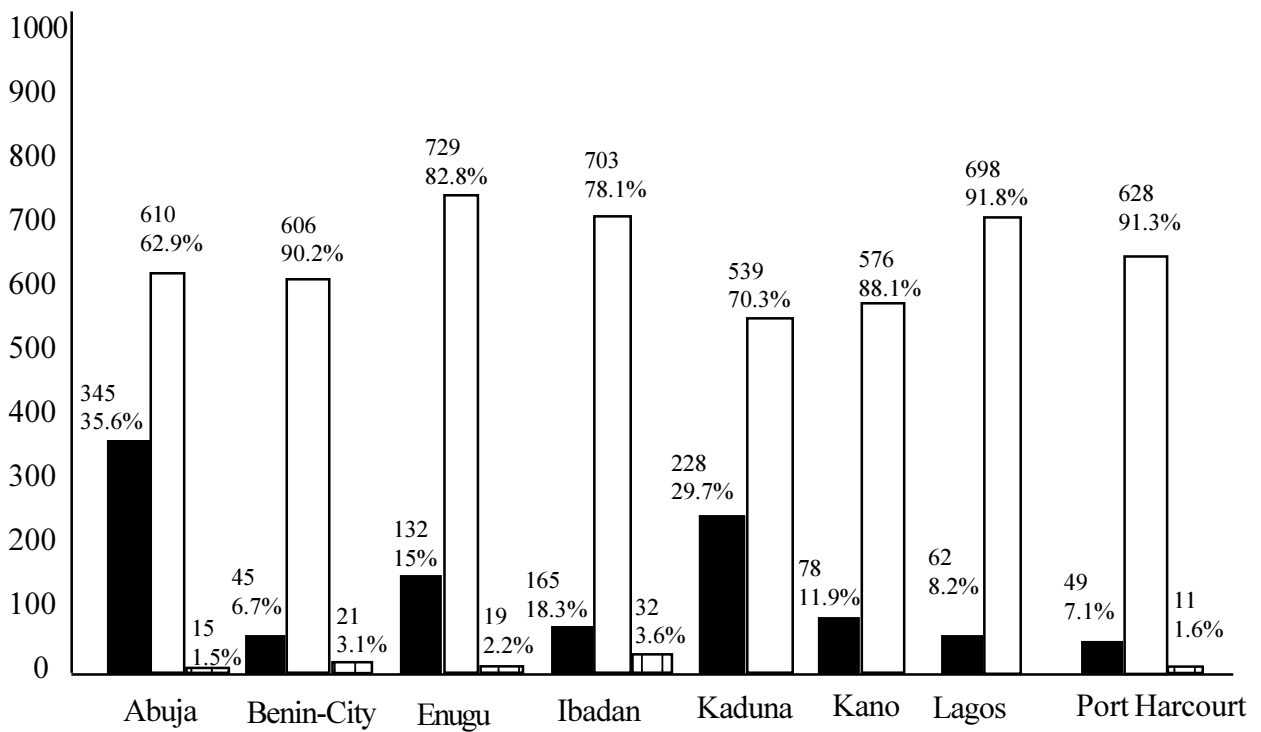


Q7. Do you think Nigerians are wasteful in fuel consumption? Yes No

AGGREGATE RESPONSES

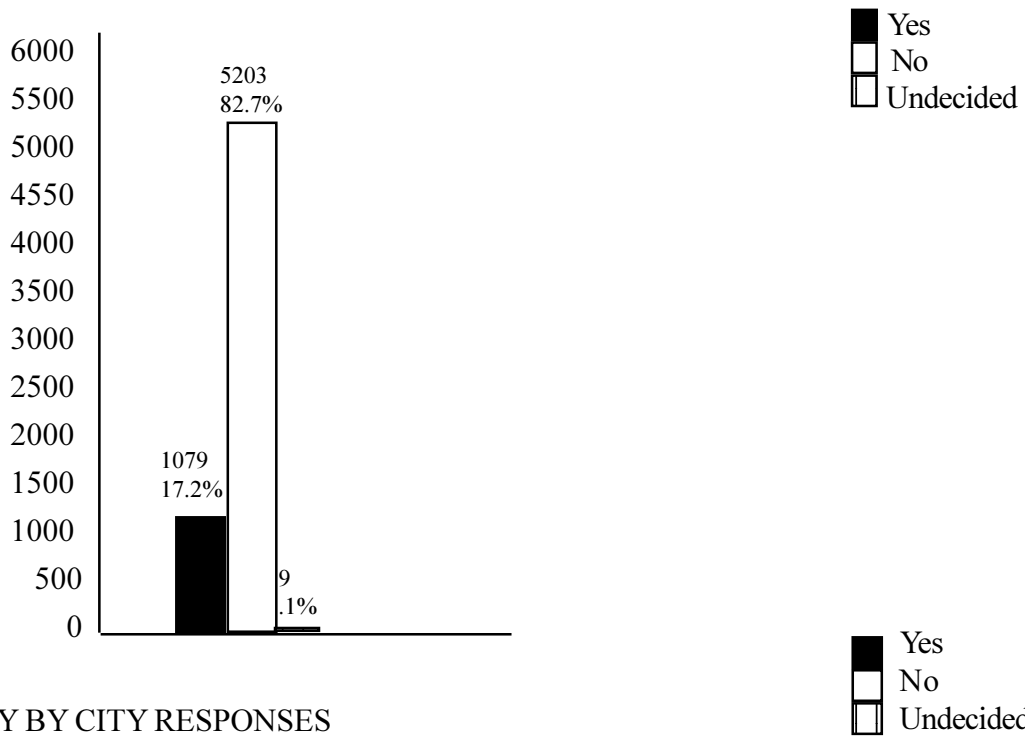


CITY BY CITY RESPONSES

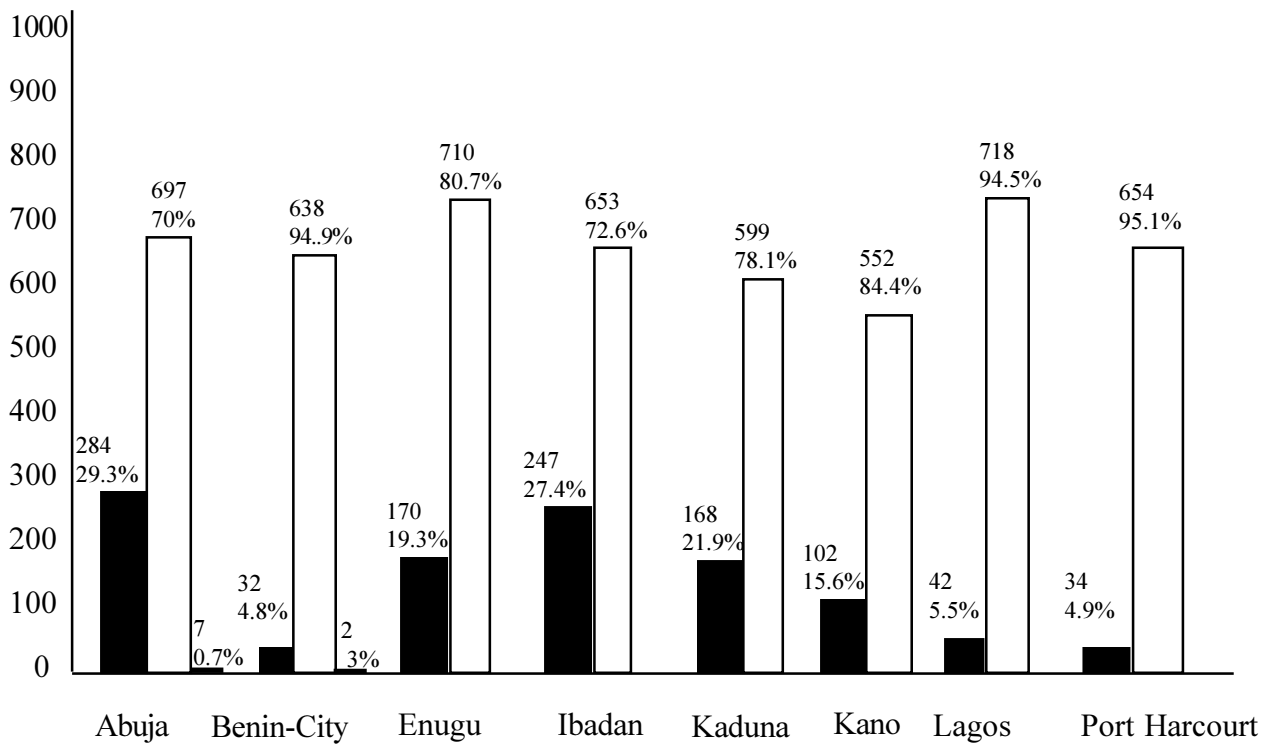


Q8. Do you think it is right for the President to proceed with his deregulation plan when a vast number of Nigerians say they do not want it?

AGGREGATE RESPONSES



CITY BY CITY RESPONSES





**M**edia Rights Agenda (MRA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in August 1993 for the purpose of promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria. MRA is registered in Nigeria, and has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.

MRA's programmes fall into four broad categories, namely: Litigation, Training, Research and Publications, and Advocacy, although its projects in these areas often overlapped. Its specific project activities include monitoring of attacks on the press, publication of reports on media issues, legislative lobbying, organizing seminars, conferences and workshops, research and litigation, particularly class actions and legal assistance to journalists who are physically attacked, arrested or detained, unjustly dismissed from their work or are harassed in other manners.

The Aims and Objectives of Media Rights Agenda are:

- to promote respect and recognition for press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria;
- to provide protection and support for journalists and writers engaged in the lawful pursuit of their professional duties;
- to promote the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity, training and conduct in the journalism profession; and
- to bring about a conducive social and legal atmosphere for the practice of journalism, and ensure the protection of the journalist's right not to be compelled to work against his or her conviction or disclose confidential sources of information.

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*Executive Watch*

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