



THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY ALTERNATIVES
(cpparesearch.org)

NIGERIANS SPEAK ON CURRENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES: PUBLIC OPINION POLL AMONG NIGERIANS IN LAGOS

Topical Issues discussed:

- Naira to Dollar exchange rate and President Muhammadu Buhari resolution on currency devaluation
- Patronage of made in Nigeria goods
- Increase in electricity tariff
- Presidential trips and his appointments.

March 2016

Surveys conducted between February 25th and March 1st, 2016

Introduction

This poll was conducted by the Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (Registered as AndChristie Research Foundation) to investigate opinions on key economic and political issues in Nigeria. This poll investigated citizen's opinion on the state of Nigerian currency (Naira), willingness to patronise local products, power supply and presidential trips and appointments.

Specifically, this poll was designed to assess the effect of the fall in exchange rate of the naira to the dollar and the opinion of Nigerians on President Muhammadu Buhari stand not to devalue the Naira. Also, the poll samples citizen's opinion on the patronage of Nigeria made goods, increase in electricity tariff, presidential trips and his appointments.

The poll was conducted in Lagos between 25th of February 2016 and 1st of March 2016. Data was collected through a structured questioner. Opinions were sampled at homes, place of work, shops and other convenient area of the respondents. The data collected was coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). A total of 148 responses were considered (97%) valid for the analysis and the results are likely to be accurate with a margin of error of ± 9 percentage.

Demographics:

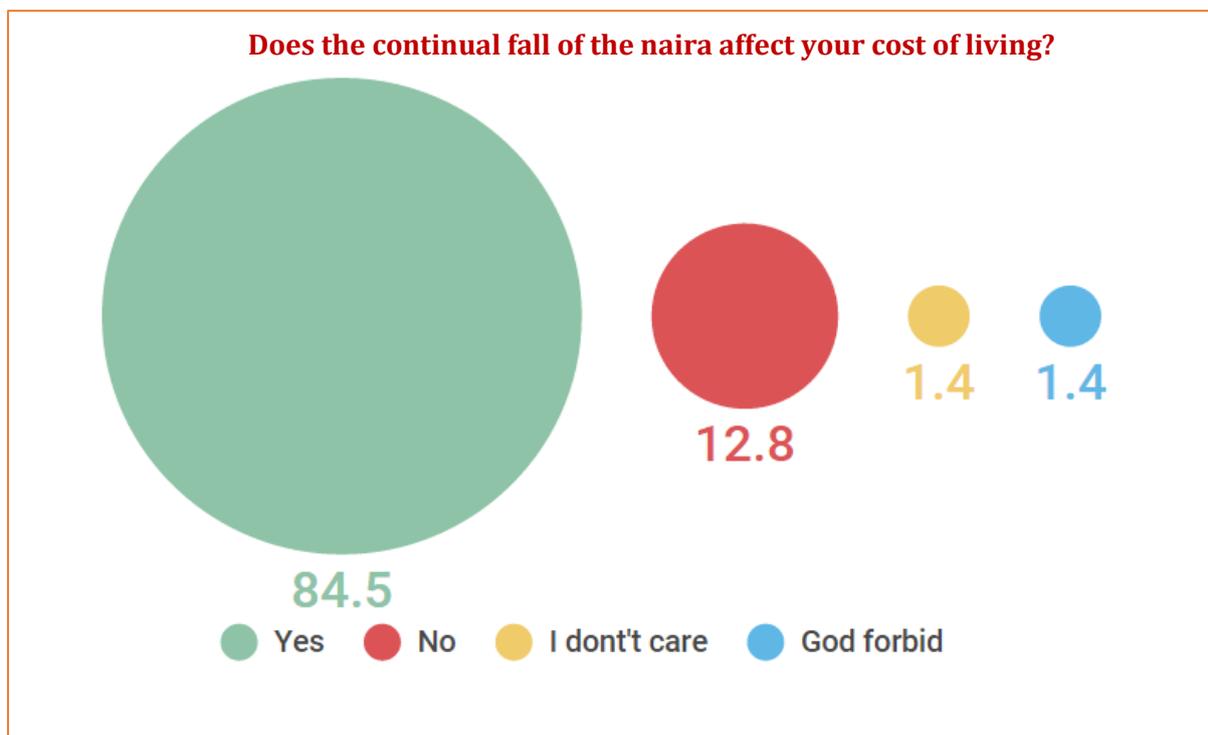
The survey respondents were 64.2% male and 35.8% female. In total, 62.8% of the respondents are between the age of 18years and 35years old. The age distribution was 18-24 (15.2%), 25-30 (28.3%), 31-35 (19.3%), 36-40 (13.1%), 41-45 (10.3), 46-50 (9.0%) and 4.8% are 50years and above. Majority of the respondents (81.6%) have tertiary education, 16.3% have secondary education, 1.4% have primary education and 0.7% have no schooling at all. 33.3% of the respondents earn less than N50,000 monthly, 29.1% earn between N51,000 and N100,000, 12.1% earn between N101,000-N150,000 and 25.5% of the respondents earn more than N150,000 naira monthly. Other finding from this poll is detailed in this report.

Survey Findings

A. CURRENCY

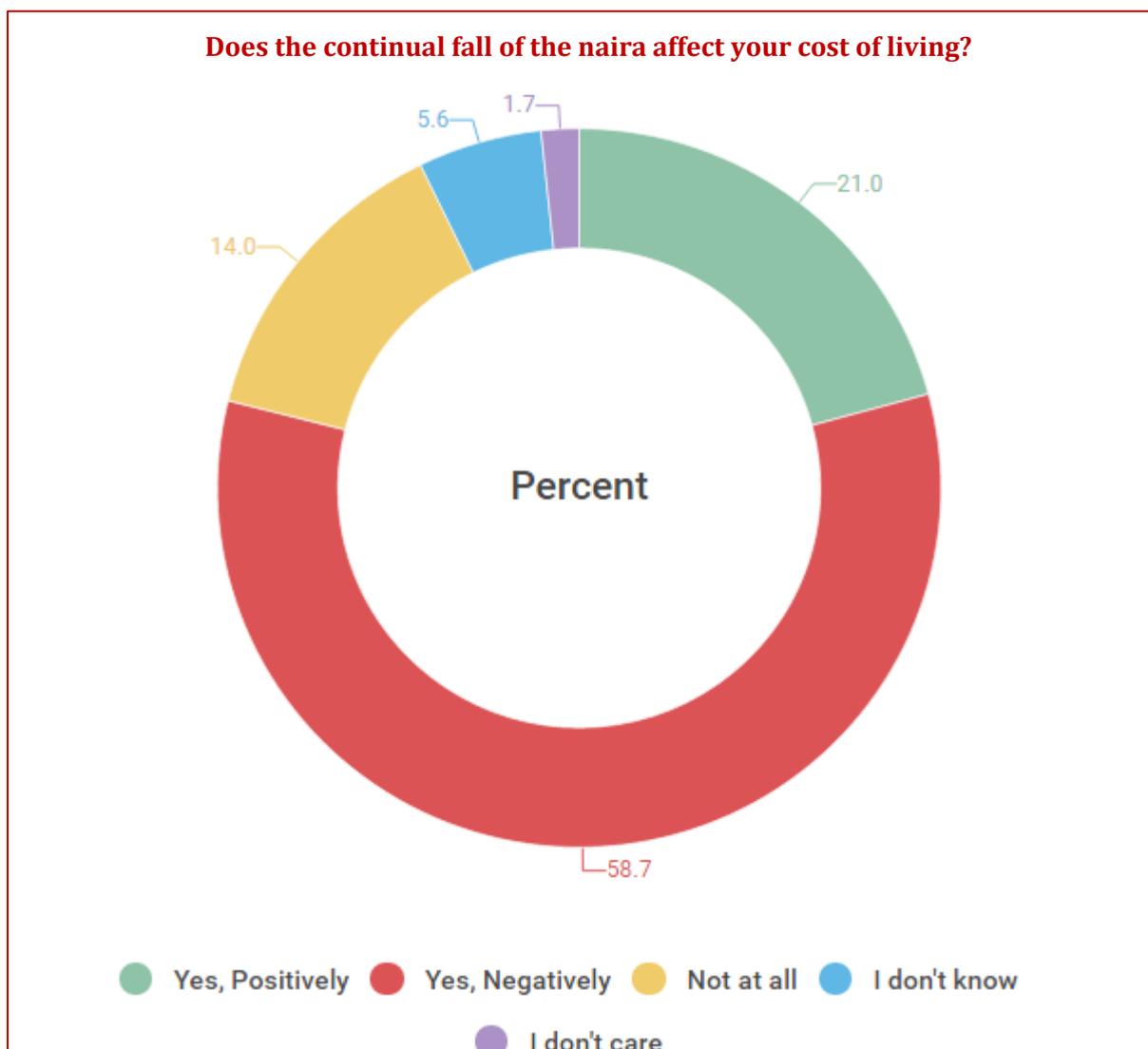
Does the continual fall of the naira affect your COST OF LIVING?

- In light of the continual fall in value of the naira, at least 8 in every 10 of the sampled Nigerians in Lagos (85%) disclosed that the fall in the value of the naira directly **affects their cost of living**.
- It should be noted that the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) fixes the value of naira to a dollar at ₦197 per \$1 but naira is sold at [₦370 to \\$1 at the parallel market as at 17th of February 2016](#) and the situation has not changed much.



Does the continual fall of the naira (and rise dollar) impact your business?

- About 6 in every 10 of the sampled Nigerians living in Lagos (and involved in one or more business activities) disclosed that the fall in value of the naira has a **negative impact on their businesses**.
- 21% of business owners have benefited from the current currency crisis (positive effect on businesses) or not feeling the effect at all, at least not yet (14%). A small portion (2%) of Nigerians in Lagos just do not care about the volatility in the value of the naira.



What do you think is responsible for the continual fall of the Naira?

The sampled Nigerians in Lagos expressed opinions on likely causes of the continual fall in the value of the naira.

- High level **corruption** and **falling oil prices** were perceived as the major causes of the continual fall in value of the naira.
- Other possible causes include **government policies**, **excessive demand for the dollar for importation**, **bank policies and sharp practices**, and **consumer demands** (individual and businesses).

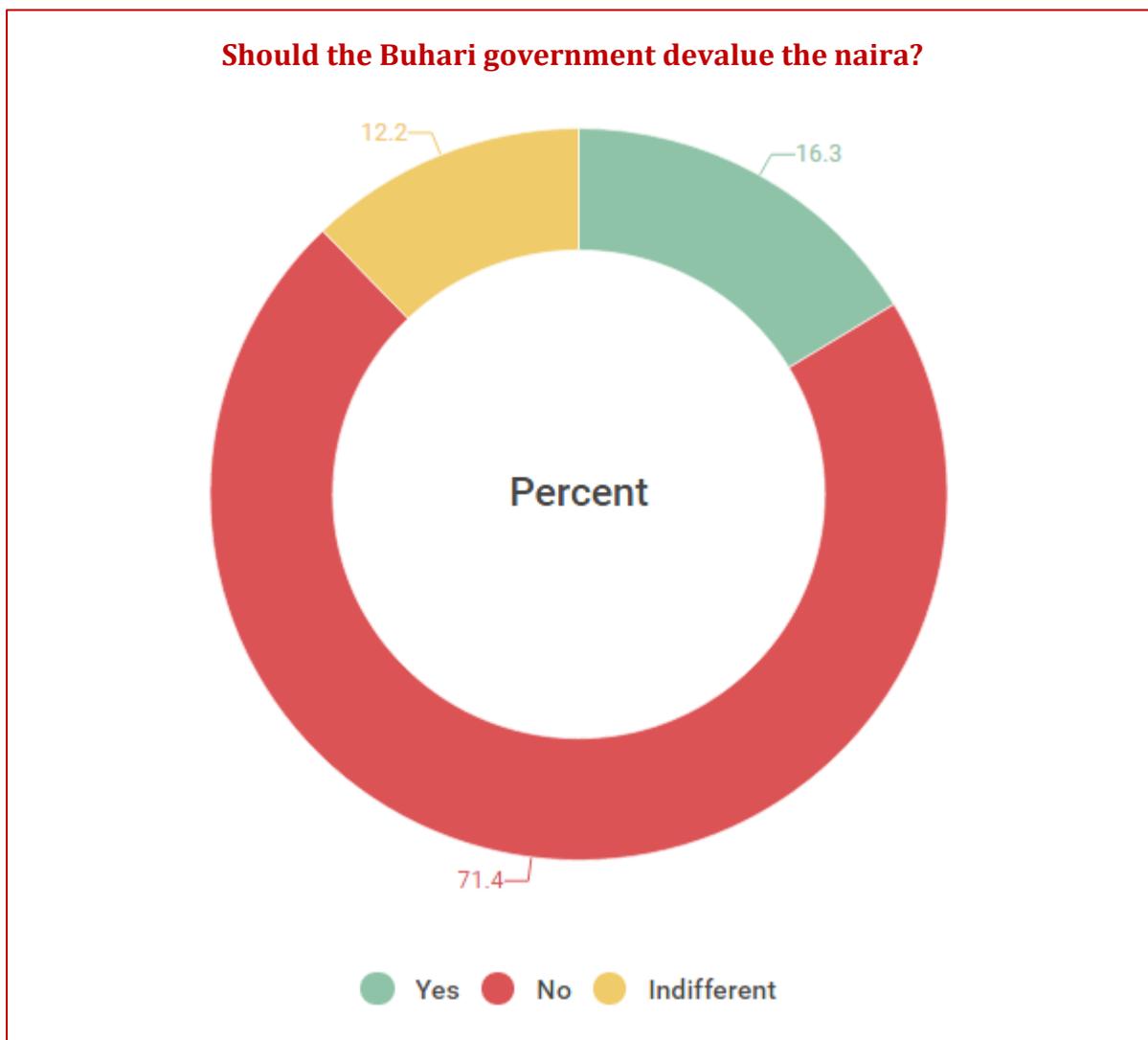
What do you think is responsible for the continual fall of the Naira?



Should the Buhari government accept demands to INCREASE the naira exchange rate?

Taking into consideration President Muhammadu Buhari refusal to devalue the Naira, CPPA sampled Nigerians in Lagos to ask their opinions on the fixed exchange rate policy:

- At least 7 in every 10 Nigerians sampled believe that President **Buhari is right**, that the government should not devalue the Naira.
- Conversely, about 16% believed thought the **Naira should be devalued**, but about 12% of the sample Nigerians in Lagos were indifferent as to whether the Naira should be devalued or not.

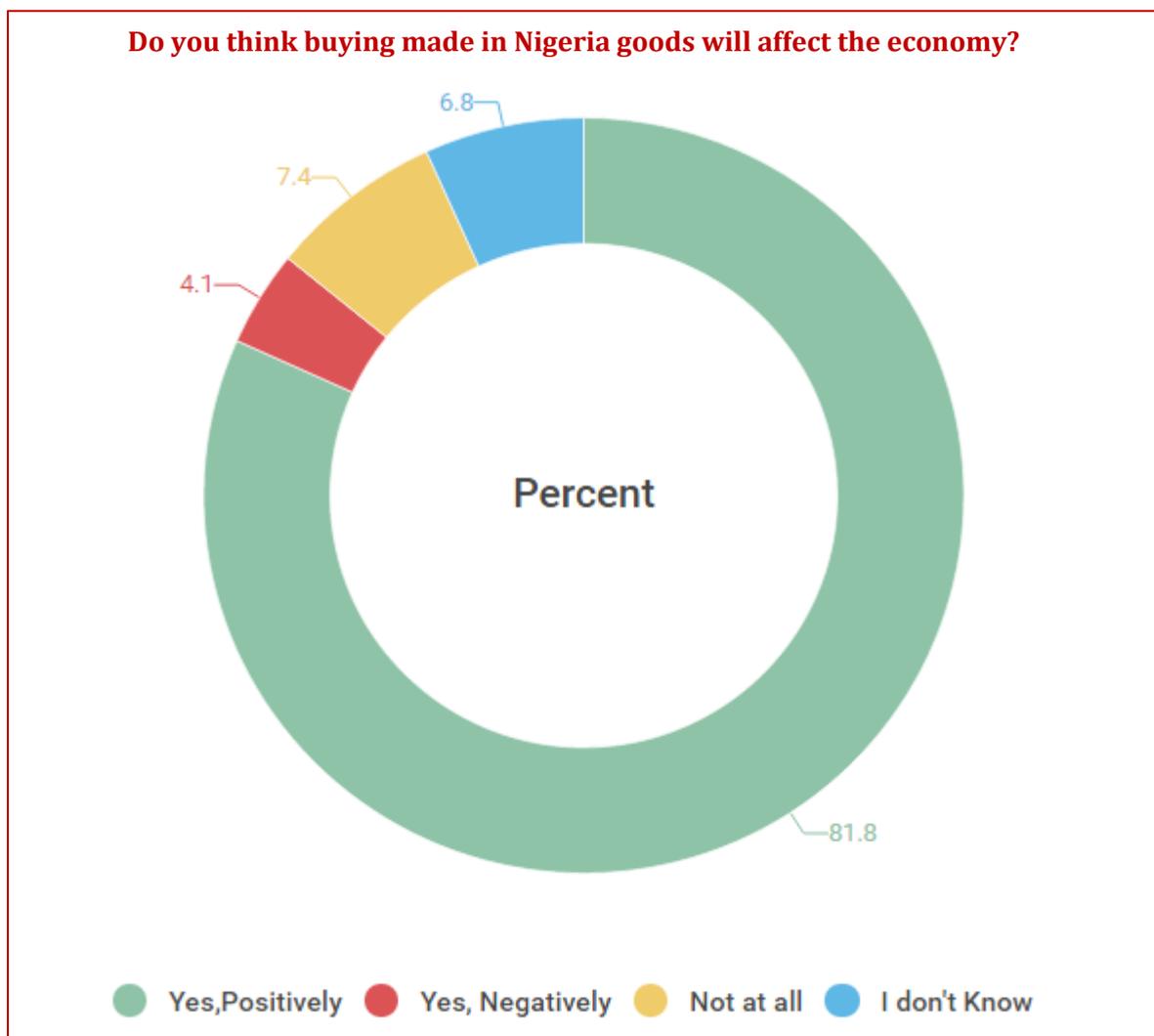


B. MADE IN NIGERIA GOODS

Do you think buying made in Nigeria goods will affect the economy?

With respect to the renewed commitment of the federal government of Nigeria to encourage Nigerians to patronize locally made products, Nigerians in Lagos were asked about the direction in which buying made in Nigerian products will affect the Nigerian economy:

- At least 8 in every 10 (82%) of the respondents agree that buying made in Nigeria goods will have a **positive effect on the economy**
- About 4% think it will have a **negative effect**,
- About 7% think there won't be any effect at all, while close to 7% of the respondents replied they do not know if patronizing made in Nigeria goods will have any effect on the economy.



Specifically, how will buying made in Nigeria goods affect the economy?

The respondents (sampled Nigerians in Lagos) also discussed their opinions on how buying made in Nigeria products will affect the economy. In order of proportion of response, the opinions are presented below:

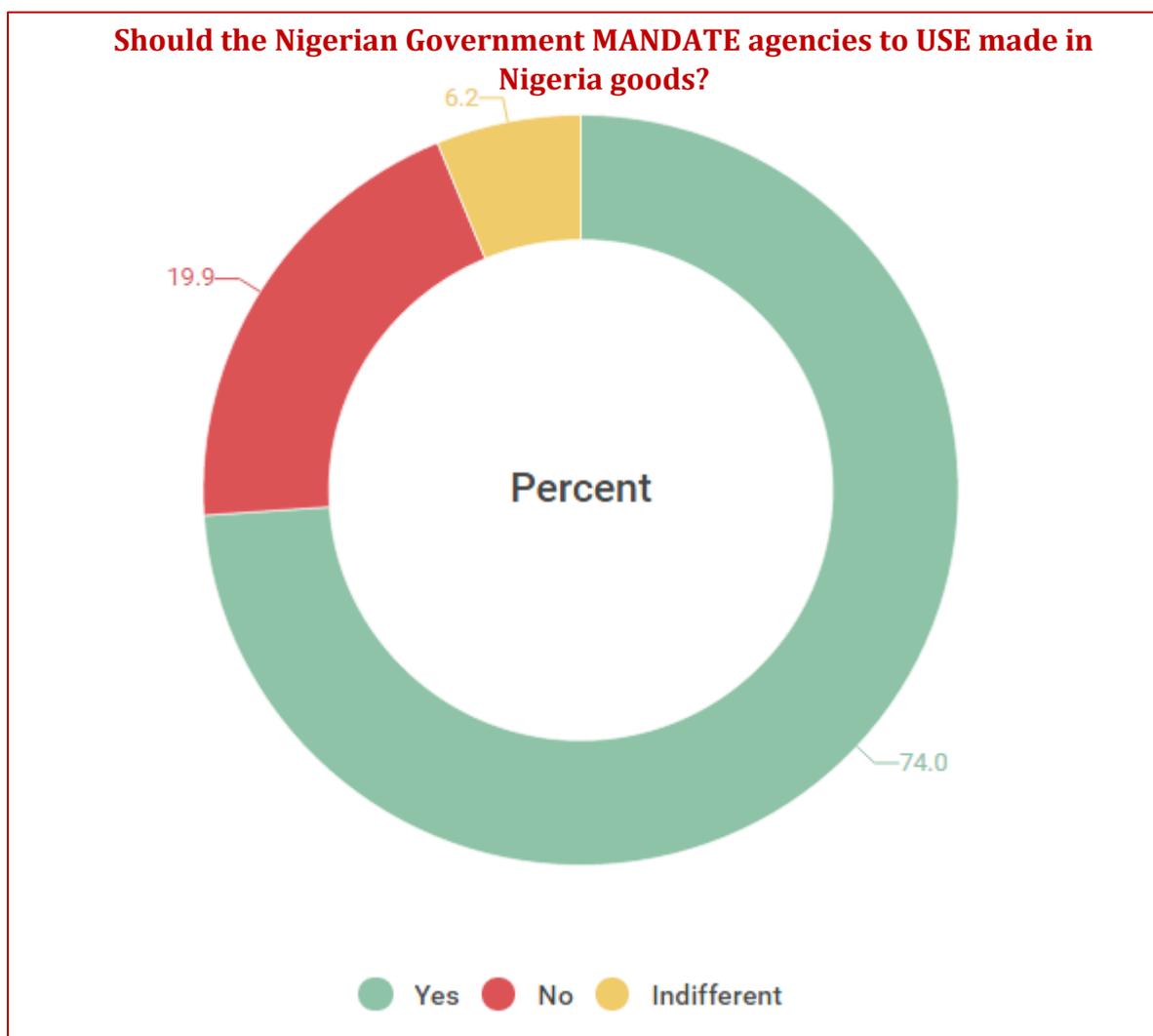
- 28% of the respondents think it will lead to import substitution,
- 27% believe it will lead to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth,
- 23% believe it will lead to job creation,
- 18% believe it will conserve Nigeria Forex (foreign exchange) earnings
- 3% believe there will be reduction in inflation rate in the economy.



Should the Nigerian Government MANDATE its agencies to exclusively USE made in Nigeria goods?

Recently, the Federal Government of Nigeria has shown much interest in encouraging Nigerians to patronize locally made products. However, not much has been said about the government taking the lead in that decision. So, this question was asked to gauge the perception of Nigerians (in Lagos) if the government should mandate its agencies to use made in Nigeria products. The responses are discussed below:

- At least 7 in every 10 Nigerians in Lagos think the **government should mandate its agencies to patronize locally made products**, 3 in every 10 either do not support this or are just indifferent.

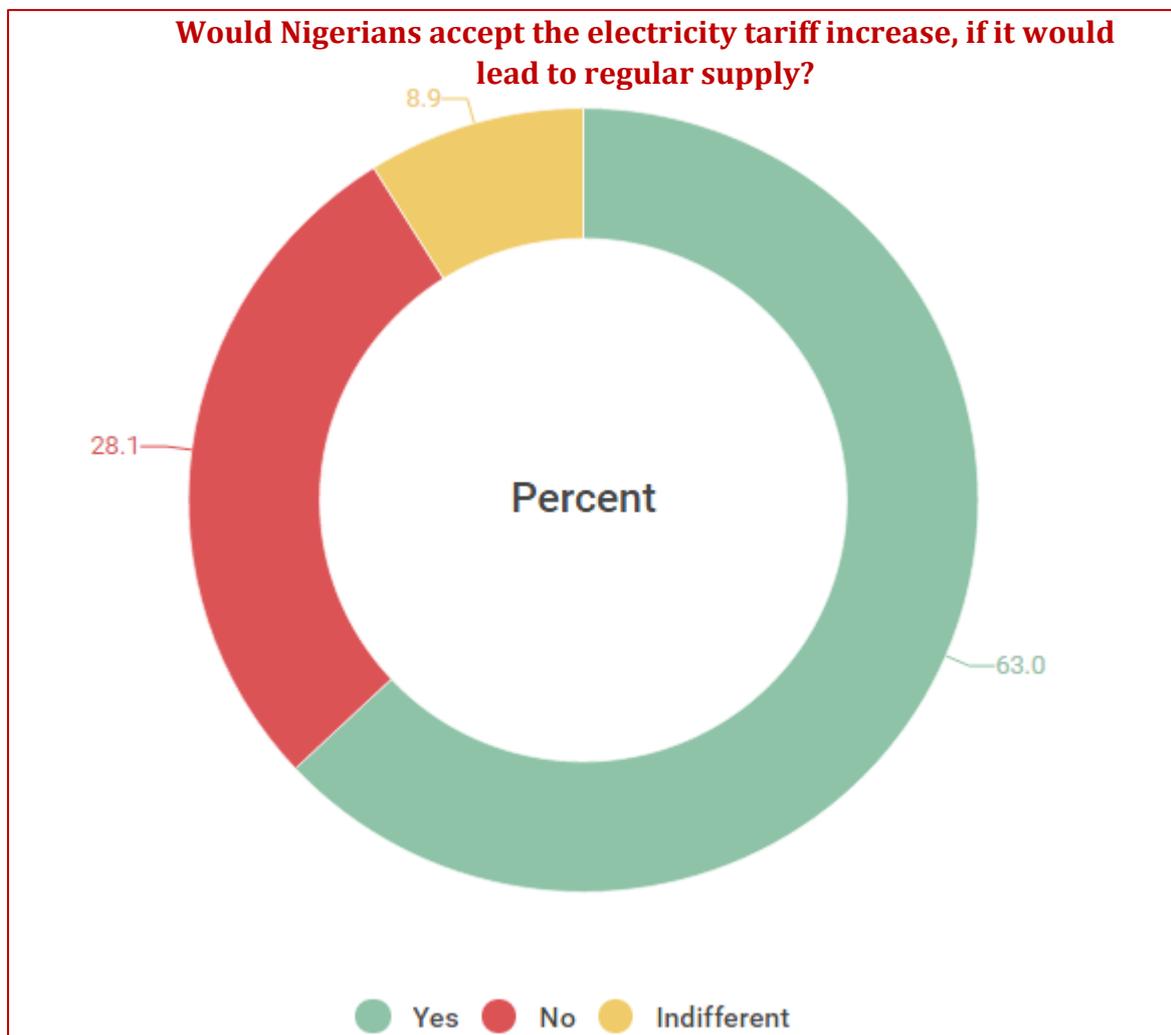


C. POWER

Should Nigerians agree to pay for the electricity tariff increase, if it will lead to regular supply?

In response to the proposed increment in electricity tariff by NERC (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission), this opinion poll sought the views of Nigerians on the tariff increment if it will lead to better electricity supply.

- At least 6 in every 10 Nigerians (in Lagos) think the electricity **tariff increment should be implemented if it will guarantee steady electricity supply,**
- 28% think Nigerians should not agree, while 9% are indifferent.

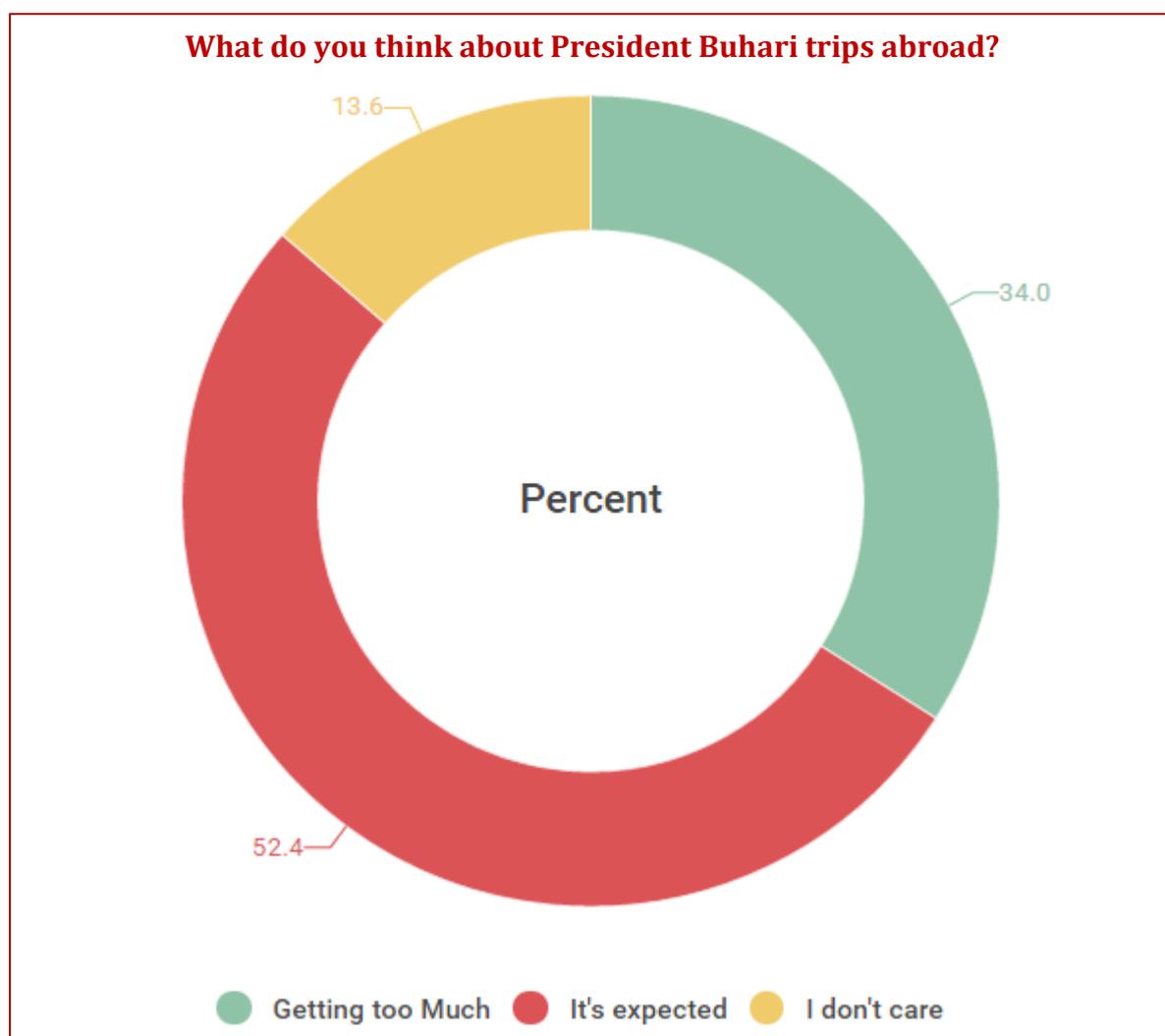


D. PRESIDENTIAL TRIPS AND APPOINTMENT

What do you think about President Buhari trips abroad?

Nigerians (in Lagos) were asked what they think about the frequency of President Buhari trips abroad:

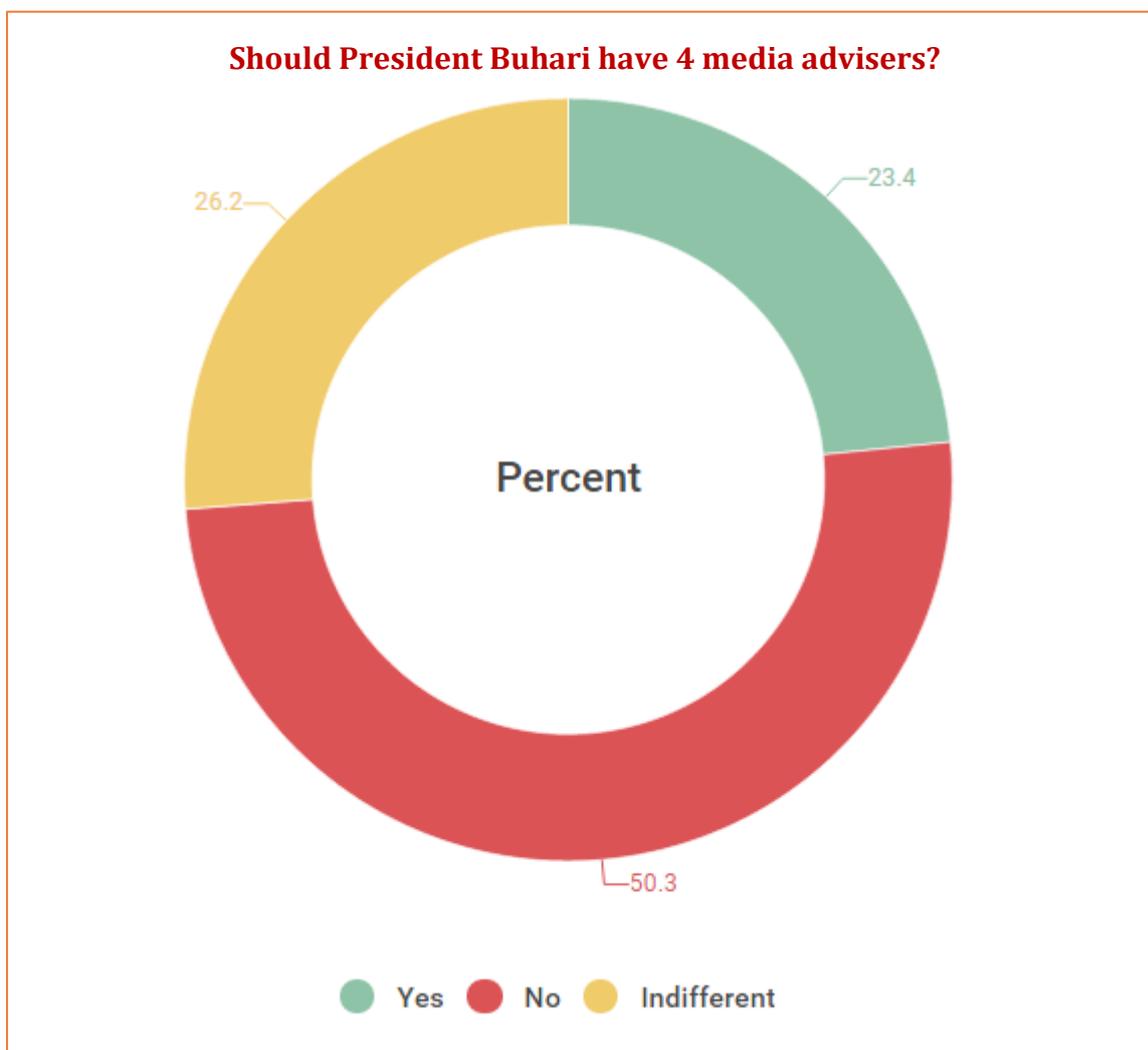
- About half of the people sampled believed the **President Buhari trips abroad are expected**, 34% think the trips are getting too much, while 14% just don't care about the trips.



Should President Buhari have 4 media advisers?

With the Nigerian President appointing another media adviser, this question sought the opinions of Nigerians whether the president should have up to four media advisers.

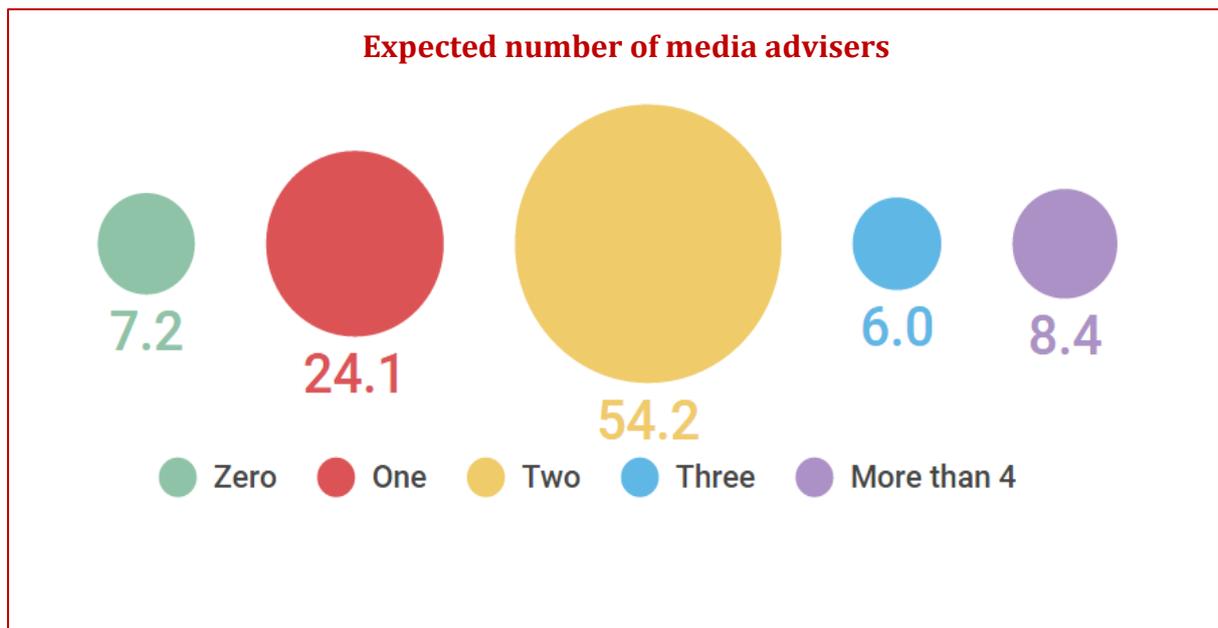
- About half of the sampled Nigerians in Lagos said there was **no need for President Buhari to have four media advisers.**
- About 23% think the president can have up to four media advisers, while about 26% were unconcerned with the number of media advisers President Buhari has or should have.



Expected number of media advisers

In addition to the responses on the number of media advisers President Buhari currently has, respondents were asked to suggest what number of media advisers the presidents should have:

- More than half (54%) of the sampled individuals think **President Buhari should not have more than TWO media advisers**, while about 24% think just ONE media adviser is enough.



About CPPA

The Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (CPPA) is an independent, non-partisan public policy think-tank committed to rigorous research through which public policies are examined and best practices disseminated. CPPA aims to help sub-Saharan African governments, institutions, and businesses create innovative policy solutions to development challenges.

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