

## INCREASE IN FUEL PRICE

Even if it is true that a meeting of natural rulers agreed to price increase of fuel, it is no justification or excuse for General Abubakar's government to impose it on helpless Nigerians who are groaning and moaning.

The government should not sacrifice Nigerians to please or win the support of the So-called "International Community" whose agent is the International Monetary Fund which initiated its pauperisation mission with structural Adjustment Programme during the regime of General Babangida in 1986, out of which is persistent demand for "removal of subsidy".

The Petroleum Trust Fund was created to take care of the excess (extortion) paid by motorists when petrol price was increased to ₦11 per litre. This knocked the bottom off the deceit/fraud about removal of subsidy. When Tofa and Late Abiola appeared on television debate, Abiola punctured the subsidy claim. I told people watching with me that Abiola would win the election but would have trouble because he understood the politics of oil subsidy.

With all Abacha's brutality and roguery, he refused to yield to IMF pressure, buoyed by British cajolery, to increase it to ₦25 per litre. It is very wicked to increase the price. I cant even understand the logic that an increase will cure scarcity or stop smuggling. Puerile argument!

People who say they dont trust Abubakar know what they are saying. The other time, Akhigbe was reported as saying that the price should be increased to ₦40 per litre. Before he became Chief of staff.

I wonder if these people know what privations majority of Nigerians are going through. They refused to let us discuss our problems either through a government of national unity or a sovereign national conference.

Why do they want to rush this increase, privatisation and some very important, sensitive, programmes with military might. If they love this country as their father and mother land more than foreign interests and patronage, they should drop this killer increase.

*Om Omorodion*  
OMORODION OMOREGBE  
20 AKIWOWO STREET  
AKOWONJO, AKEGGE  
Lagos State  
5/12/98

I have not been buying papers regularly since last year for financial reasons. And no one informed me of seeing it published