

New Federal Government Policy on Banned Textiles and Other Items: Of whose Benefit?

The new policy of Federal Government to extend the age limit of used cars from eight to 10 years is in the best interest and welfare of Nigeria consumers and the nation` economy too

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The recently introduced new Federal Government of Nigeria policy for extending the age limit of used cars that can be imported into Nigeria from eight to 10 years is highly commendable. But same can not be said of the policy of the Government to ban importation of textiles and some other products.

In this era of competition, Government should allow a competitive automobile market without undue interference, a position canvassed for by CEON (then CAMON) in 2001 when the then Federal Government proposed ban on importation of used vehicles of over five years.

The new policy of Federal Government to extend the age limit of used cars from eight to 10 years is in the best interest and welfare of Nigeria consumers and the nation` economy too.

Meanwhile, while the new 'Protectionist' Policy of the Federal Government to ban the importation of textile materials and some other products into the Nigeria markets might be of immense benefit to the local industries, reverse is the case for the Nigeria Consumers as import ban policy of the Government

is an infringement on the Rights of Nigeria Consumers to Choice and to Satisfaction of Basic Needs.

Also, the policy will restrict Nigeria Consumers to get value for their money as improving consumer choice and lowering products prices increase the economic power of consumers. Consumers, based on their purchasing power, should be provided with effective competitive market enabling them to freely choose from wide varieties of products comprising locally produced and imported products.

Great benefits flow from competition and those local industries have no incentives to perform better if they do not face competition from their foreign counterparts. Local industries must constantly improve; bring in new equipment and products and improve production processes through imitation and/or invention, seeking out cheaper suppliers or new customers, and improving management techniques and workers` skill.

In conclusion, the Federal Government of Nigeria is urged, in the interest of vulnerable Nigeria consumers, to immediately suspend the new textile and other products import ban policy and allow Nigeria Textiles and other products markets to be freely competitive.

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²Consumers Empowerment Organisation of Nigeria - CEON (formerly CAMON) est une organisation non gouvernementale à but non-lucratif et indépendante établie en 1995 basée sur la recherche et le lobbying pour favoriser et protéger les droits et les intérêts des consommateurs au Nigéria. Son siège social est au n°. 35, route d'Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, état d'Ogun, Nigéria. CEON s'est activement engagé dans les activités de protection des consommateurs, de la concurrence et du développement soutenable par la recherche, le lobbying, le réseautage, la collaboration, les partenariats, l'éducation, l'information, la consultation et la réparation.

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