

Review of: "“You Are Not the Only Person”: A Visual Essay on the Nigeria’s Naira Scarcity Crisis"

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With the help of local-field reportage data, and the author’s personal experience of witnessing massive public outrages, the paper explores how a botched attempt by the Nigerian government to replace some old naira notes with redesigned copies led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the build-up to the 2023 general election. Overall, the paper is well-explained. It is perfectly suited to a top political science journal. I nonetheless have a few suggestions that might help fit the paper within the aims and scope of this particular journal:

(1) As described, during the 2023 naira scarcity crisis, the author went to the banks in Nsukka urban, while taking photographs sometimes as early as 7 a.m., and was part of the crowd trying to deposit supposed old naira, our hard-earned money, before the deadline - late February 2023. The money change was presumed to discourage vote buying and forms of financial inducement, but the Independent National Electoral Commission was eventually taken to court for its perceived complicity in electoral malpractice. The crisis has been reported in the media, over and over again, even up to this time of writing, which is barely seven months after the crisis started. Also, the governor of CBN has been suspended and arrested for procurement fraud. I went to the banks in Nsukka urban, taking photographs as early as 7 a.m., and saw a mammoth crowd within and outside the bank halls. In the Introduction section, please elaborate on a few more local-reported instances of public reactions/experiences (with a mention of certain attributable studies, for instance: <https://doi.org/10.37745/bjmas.2022.0123>, etc.).

(2) The paper explains how people organized themselves in the upper chamber or wherever, made things easier for their people from the north, but made us from the south worship them here. They packed the money in their houses, but we are afraid to say the truth. The naira scarcity frustrated Nigerians and worsened the cost of living, as expressed by one person. People had money in their accounts but could not access it to take care of some necessities of life. Some left the house as early as 03:00 am to get a good position in the queue, but met others who wrote their names on the list, waiting for the banks to open. Before the naira scarcity, some businesses operated a cashless policy that had helped to reduce the rate of kidnapping cases and the social malaise that was common to all the people, especially the middle and lower classes. A few corroborative studies (e.g., <https://doi.org/10.37745/bjmas.2022.0123>, etc.) should also be discussed in ‘The data’ section so as to affirm the significance of critically assessing such events in effectively aiding public-policy measures.

(3) This essay has captured people’s frustrations during the 2023 naira scarcity crisis in Nigeria. A notable human rights lawyer called for the prosecution of Godwin Emefiele. As per the paper, the crowds in front of the UBA branch in Nsukka

urban are mixed up with passers-by and bystanders on different missions. The cash crunch affected groups and individuals differently in Nigeria, with more developed towns experiencing fewer tense situations and fewer illiterate people. The sit-at-home ultimatum was a challenge, and people cast aspersions on the competence of the CBN governor. People cared less about their security at this time because the cashless policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria was ill-informed. From a sustainability perspective, how effective or useful can such aspects be in fostering novel humanitarian-aid steps in similar urban settings of developing countries as well (e.g., <https://doi.org/10.11591/ijphs.v12i2.22711>, etc.) should also be substantially elaborated in the 'Visual data' section towards highlighting the scope and field-scale applicability of the paper's key highlights across geographic spectrums.