

Tinted Glass Permit The Police's new cash cow in a failing Economy

By Bolaji O. Akinyemi

In the theatre of Nigerian governance, there are policies birthed from vision, and there are policies conceived in greed. The latest push by the Nigeria Police Force for motorists to secure a tinted glass permit is no vision. It is a venture. It is commerce wrapped in a uniform. It is the commodification of authority at a time when the governed are gasping for air. Nigeria today is an economy on life support. The citizen is the oxygen tank. And the state, rather than heal, has turned parasitic — sucking from that very tank. Amid spiraling inflation, petrol prices that have stripped families of mobility, and a currency that now trembles before the dollar, the Police Force has found a new gold mine: the tinted glass permit.

PROFITEERING DISGUISED AS POLICY. Let us not be naïve. This is not about security. It is about revenue. This is not about protecting Nigerians. It is about policing Nigerians for profit. The permit fee is not a token — it is a toll gate erected between a citizen and the legal use of their own vehicle. Multiply that “token” by millions of motorists, and you will understand that this is not a regulation; it is a multi-billion-naira racket. For years, motorists have paid for registration, roadworthiness, insurance, and countless other levies. Now, under the economic weight of survival, they are being compelled to fund yet another pipeline — one that empties not into national development but into the vaults of an institution infamous for monetizing its powers. As though the financial insult were not enough, the Police have placed a pistol on the table — a short, unforgiving deadline. Nigerians are told: pay up quickly or be criminalized. There is no room for public consultation. No grace for financial planning. No adequate sensitization. The speed is deliberate; haste is the smokescreen of exploitation.

Attempt compliance and you meet a dead portal. The online registration platform is already down. Yet, the countdown continues. This is governance by frustration — set an impossible task, then penalize the people for failing to achieve it.

DUPLICATION: THE MONUMENT OF WASTEFULNESS. And then, the insult to reason: data recapture. Even if you register with your BVN or NIN — systems that already hold your biometric fingerprints, facial images, and complete identity profiles — you must still present yourself for another round of capturing. Why? Because a bureaucracy that runs on waste cannot survive on efficiency. The Police insist on “fresh capturing” not because it is necessary, but because every step of the process must justify the cost they intend to extract.

THE MORAL BANKRUPTCY OF SUCH POLICIES. What we are witnessing is the unholy marriage between state power and institutional greed. It is the normalizing of extortion as governance. It is the audacity to milk the people in broad daylight, in the name of the law. The tinted glass permit is not just a permit. It is a parable — of a government that governs with the mindset of a merchant. Of a Police Force that has perfected the art of multiplying toll gates in the lives of those it is sworn to protect. If Nigerians keep quiet today, the tinted glass permit will become the template for tomorrow's extractions. Our silence will be the fertile soil from which the next exploitative policy will sprout. The people must speak. Loudly. Relentlessly. For in a failing economy, the cost of silence is always greater than the cost of resistance.

The image is a composite of three parts. On the left, a close-up of a car's side window with a tinted glass permit sticker. In the center, a printed document titled 'MOTOR VEHICLE TINTED GLASS PERMIT' from the Nigeria Police. On the right, a screenshot of a web portal titled 'Register/Apply For Tinted Glass Permit Following These Steps...'. The portal lists eight steps: 1. Fill the form by entering your correct information, then click on 'Create Account' to proceed. 2. Enter your email address and password, then click on 'Login' to proceed. 3. Fill in your vehicle details and upload the required supporting documents. 4. Proceed to make payment. 5. You will be scheduled for a vehicle inspection and biometric capture at your selected NPf Intelligence Department to complete your application. 6. Select Service to your preferred - Tinted Glass. 7. All details are then submit the. 8. Portal giving and sign up for NIN/BVN/TIN. 9. Code sent to mail to verify your id. 10. Select Service to your preferred - Tinted Glass. 11. All details are then submit the.