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LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE NIGERIAN TRADE POLICY AND PROTECTION OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES

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Abstract
This paper presented a legal analysis of Nigeria's trade policy framework with a focus on its role in protecting and promoting local industries. The study examined that the country's trade policies, their impact on local industries and the challenges facing the Nigerian economy. The Nigerian trade policies were shaped by the country's economic and political context. The Legal framework for trade policy and the protection of local industries is a complex and evolving system that attempts to balance the goals of global trade integration with the need to foster domestic economic growth. The analysis revealed a tension between liberalization commitments and the country's developmental agenda, revealing that trade policies had both positive and negative impacts on the local industries. Trade Liberalization promotes economic growth but led to increase competition from foreign companies, negatively impacting local industries. The analysis highlighted the importance of protecting local industries from unfair trade practices like dumping, the need for a balanced, legally compliant trade policy that safeguards domestic production while fostering competitiveness. The paper adopted the doctrinal research methodology where primary and secondary sources of law were evaluated. The paper concluded that Trade Policy of Nigeria 2023 – 2027 is part of the government's renewed Hope Agenda, aiming to attract foreign Investment, boost exports, create jobs and prioritize value addition in non-oil exports. The paper therefore recommended among others for policy reform that aligns with Nigeria's economic goals and its international trade obligations.

Keywords: Trade policy, Trade liberalization, Protectionism, Local industries

1. Introduction
Nigeria's legal framework for trade policy and the protection of local industries is a complex and evolving system that attempts to balance the goal of global trade integration with the need to foster domestic economic growth. This legal analysis reveals a mix of protectionist measures, local content requirements and international trade commitments that often creates tensions and challenges. Nigerian Trade Policy is a strategy framework aimed at promoting trade as a tool for economic growth and development. The current policy[1]recognizes the challenges facing Nigeria, including a predominantly primary production economy, growing poverty rates, and a low share of global trade. The policy's vision is to use trade as a catalyst for developing a diversified and competitive economy. Nigerian trade policy evolution reflects efforts to balance national growth objectives with international trade commitments, leveraging trade for Sustainable development.[2]

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[1] Trade policy of Nigeria (TPN) 2023 2027.

[2] A A Soneye and Others, 'Analyzing Nigeria's Trade Policies: Evolution, Achievements and Challenges' [2024] (7)(4) *African Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development (AJESD)* 64-80 <https://abjournals.org/ajesd/papers/volume-7/issue-4analysing-nigerias-trade-policies-evolution-achievements-and-challenges/> accessed 6 August 2025,

The Nigerian economy is facing challenges of the influence of the international trade over the local industries. Nigeria being a developing country with vast range of local industries, thus sustaining growth and local industrialization.[3] This is a pointer that Nigeria's trade policies play a significant role in ensuring a level playing field in competitiveness and sustainability of its local industries. This study aims to analyze the impact of Nigerian trade policies on the protection of local industries. It identifies strengths, weaknesses and opportunities associated with current trade policies.[4]

Nigeria's trade policy is not static but rather evolving, ranging from import, industrialization and trade liberalization. However, despite these developments, local industries still face serious challenges including competitions from imports, inadequate infrastructure and lack of healthy competition[5]. This paper will examine the extent to which the current trade policies support or hinder the growth and development of local industries. It also highlights the key features of Nigerian trade policies and their impacts on local industries. It shows how effective the current trade policies are in protecting local industries from foreign competition. It examines critically the potential benefits and drawbacks of protectionist trade policies for local industries in Nigeria.[6]

2. Nigerian Trade Policy

The Trade Policy of Nigeria represents a strategic initiative designed to position trade as a central tool for economic growth and development. It recognizes the country's structural constraints such as reliance on primary production, a rising poverty rate, and a marginal share in global trade. The policy seeks to promote inclusive, pro-poor growth through market-driven approaches that are consistent with Nigeria's commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO).[7] Its central objective is to remove the barriers that have historically limited Nigeria's ability to engage fully in international trade, including the effects of rising trade and geopolitical tensions, global pandemics, protectionism, and non-tariff restrictions. To achieve this, the policy incorporates both essential and emerging trade concerns,[8] while building a competitive and transparent trade environment aligned with the government's commitment to openness. It further provides a roadmap for Nigeria to take advantage of global trade opportunities, enhance the welfare of its citizens, and accommodate the concerns of the Organized Private Sector (OPS) and Civil Society to strengthen national trade performance.[9]

The vision of the policy is to make trade a catalyst for diversifying and competitive Nigeria's economy. The mission is to utilize the nation's natural resources and economic potential to maximize benefits from global trade.[10] By emphasizing economic diversification, the policy addresses the vulnerabilities of the oil-dependent economy, promoting the development of non-oil sectors and encouraging Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to participate more actively in external trade.[11] It equally underscores the importance of regional integration and collaboration, highlighting Nigeria's role within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

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[3] A F Adenikinju, 'Productivity and Cost Efficient in the Nigeria Manufacturing Sector' [2005] (17)(1) *African Development Review* 53-75.
[4] T A Oyejide, 'Trade Policies and Industrialization in Nigeria' [2007] (16)(2) *Journal of African Economies.* 245-275.
[5] E O Ogunkola, 'An Evolution of the Nigeria's Trade Policy Regimes' [2008](17)(2) *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development* 161-184.
[6] A Osuntogun, 'Protectionism and Industrial Development in Nigeria [2011] (45) (1) *Journal of Developing Areas* 245 – 262.
[7]African International Trade and Commerce Research (AITCR), 'The New Policy of Nigeria (TPN) 2023-2027 as amended <https://africainternationaltrade.com/2023/04/23/the-new-trade-policy-of-nigeria-tpn-2023-2027-as-amended/> accessed 6 August 2025
[8] ibid
[9] ibid
[10] ibid
[11] ibid

and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).In this context, the policy encourages greater intra-African trade, supports cross-border exchanges, and deepens regional partnerships as part of its overarching vision for long-term and sustainable economic advancement[12]. Another key dimension of the policy is the strong emphasis placed on private sector participation and collaboration. It acknowledges the vital contribution of the private sector in stimulating economic progress and national development. Accordingly, the policy seeks to establish a supportive environment that attracts private sector investment and enhances participation in the global marketplace. It equally highlights the necessity of cooperation between government institutions and private enterprises to ensure successful implementation.[13]

Furthermore, the policy aligns with the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which focus on fostering inclusive economic growth, reducing poverty and inequality, and advancing environmental responsibility. The policy underscores the significance of adopting sustainable trade systems while promoting ecologically responsible patterns of economic expansion.[14]

Overall, the policy represents a broad and ambitious framework that positions trade as a central instrument for Nigeria's growth and development. It recognizes the country's prevailing challenges and bottlenecks while presenting a clear pathway for overcoming them. Its priorities-supporting pro-poor development, strengthening regional integration, fostering private sector involvement, and embedding sustainable practices-are notable. Ultimately, the effectiveness of the policy will hinge on diligent implementation, active stakeholder collaboration, and the shared commitment of both government and private sector actors.[15]Some of the key objectives of the Nigeria trade policy include:

i. Increased Contribution to GDP**:** The policy aims to increase the trade sector's contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).[16]
ii. Enhanced Global Trade Share: It seeks to increase Nigeria's share of global trade.
iii. Economic Growth and Development: The policy aims to accelerate the growth and development of the Nigerian economy through a vibrant trade sector.[17]
iv. Stakeholder Engagement: The policy emphasizes the importance of engaging with various stakeholders, including the Organized Private Sector (OPS) and Civil Society, to boost trade.[18]
v. Addressing Trade Constraints**:** The policy seeks to address challenges that have limited Nigeria's participation in international trade, including the impact of global trade tensions, pandemics, and non-tariff barriers.
vi. Promoting Value-Added Exports: It encourages the export of value-added manufactured products.
vii. Commitment to Open and Transparent Trade: The policy promotes transparency and open trade practices.[19]
viii. Integration with Global Standards: It aligns with Nigeria's rights and obligations within the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Some of the specific Initiatives of the Nigeria Trade Policy are:

[12] ibid
[13] ibid
[14] Ibid
[15] Ibid
[16] O Nwachukwu, 'FG Unveil Trade Policy for 2023-2027, *Business Day NG* 15 December 2023 <https://businessday.ng/news/article/fg-unveils-trade-policy-for-2023-2027/> accessed 7 March 2025.
[17] ibid
[18] (n 1) AITCR
[19] ibid

- **i.** African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**:** The policy aligns with Nigeria's commitment to exploring opportunities within the AfCFTA.[20]
- **ii.** Digitalization: The policy incorporates digitalization to enhance trade processes and efficiency.[21]
- **iii.** Export Promotion: It aims to promote the export of Nigerian goods and services.[22]
- **iv.** Infrastructure Development: The policy emphasizes the need for infrastructure development to support trade activities.[23]
- **v.** Regulatory Environment: It seeks to create a supportive regulatory environment for businesses engaged in trade.[24]

The policy aims to create a competitive and enabling environment for trade, ultimately improving the quality of life for Nigerians and fostering sustainable economic growth.

Nigeria's trade policy is not based on a single, comprehensive statute but rather on a combination of laws, executive orders, and regulations. Key legal instruments include:

i. **Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act:** This is the most significant and well-known legal framework for local content in Nigeria. The Act mandates that oil and gas companies must give first consideration to Nigerian goods and services. It sets out specific minimum local content levels for various services and products in the industry and established the Nigerian Content Development and Monetary Board (NCDMB) to oversee its implementation. This law has been instrumental in increasing local participation in the lucrative oil and gas sector.[25]

ii. **Public Procurement Act:** This Act, and its subsequent amendments, aims to ensure that government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) prioritize local contractors and suppliers in their procurement processes. This is a crucial policy tool for using government spending to stimulate domestic industries.[26]

iii. **Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act:** This law reserves the commercial carriage of goods and passengers within Nigeria's coastal and inland waters exclusively for Nigerian-Owned, crewed and built vessels. The goal is to promote indigenous participation and development in the maritime sector.[27]

iv. **Custom Duties (Dumped and Subsidized Goods) Act:** This is Nigeria's primary legislation for addressing dumping. It allows for the imposition of special duties on imported goods that are being sold at a prize below their normal value in an effort to promote domestic industries from unfair competition.[28]

v. **Executive Orders:** The Nigerian Government frequently uses Executive Orders to drive its protectionist agenda. A notable example is the Nigeria First Policy: This policy, approved by the Federal Executive Council, mandates that all government agencies (MDAs) prioritize locally produced goods and services in their procurement processes. It also directs MDAs

[20] Report Business & Finance Reviews, 'Nigerian Trade Policy 2023 – 2027 – FMITI – Proshare'(Jan 27 2024)<https://proshare.co/articles/nigeria-trade-policy-2023-2027-fmiti?menu=Reports&classification=Read&category=Economic%20%26%20Financial%20Reviews> accessed 6 August 2025.

[21] YAPORH, 'Key Highlights of the Draft Trade Policy of Nigeria 2023 – 2027 (25 Aug 2025)<https://youngafricanpolicyresearch.org/key-highlights-of-the-draft-trade-policy-of-nigeria-2023-2027/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[22] ibid

[23] R Diaz 'What is New in Nigeria's Trading Policy? – Bitkan.com' (15 Oct 2024) <https://bitkan.com/learn/what-is-new-in-nigeria-s-trading-policy-27951> accessed 6 August 2025.

[24] ibid

[25] Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, 2010.

[26] Public Procurement Act, 2007.

[27] Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003.

[28] Custom Duties (Dumped and Subsidized Goods) Act 1958

to update their procurement policies to align with the policy and maintain a register of local manufacturers.[29] Other Orders like Executive Order 003 and 005 also mandates federal MDAs to prioritize local goods and services and emphasize indigenous capacity in projects involving science, engineering and technology.

vi. Raw Materials Processing Act**:** This act aims to ensure that no raw materials are exported from Nigeria without undergoing a minimum of 30% processing, and prohibits the importation of raw materials that can be produced locally.[30]

3. Protection of Local Industries

Protection of local industries in Nigeria involves policies and measures aimed at promoting and safeguarding domestic industries from unfair competitions and external threats. Protection of local industries in Nigeria is crucial for promoting economic growth, diversification and competitiveness. Nigeria's trade policies aim to balance protection of local industries with the need for trade liberalization and regional integration. The policy focuses on streamlining trade policies, adapting to global dynamics, reducing oil dependency, and enhancing the quality of life.[31]Nigeria has implemented various policies to protect local industries Nigeria employs various measures to protect its local industries, including tariffs, non-tariffs, and other protectionist measures favoring local goods. These policies aim to foster domestic production, create jobs, and reduce reliance on imports, encourage local production, reduce foreign competition, and generate government revenue.[32]

3.1 Legal Mechanisms for Protection

i. **Tariffs:** Tariffs refer to compulsory charges imposed by a state on goods that are brought into or taken out of its territory, and in Nigeria these charges are mainly applied to imports and are administered by the Nigerian Customs Service. Such duties are commonly assessed either as a percentage of the total value of the imported product (known as ad valorem duties) or as a fixed levy determined by the category or volume of the goods (referred to as specific duties). Nigeria's tariff framework is shaped by the Common External Tariff (CET) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which standardizes tariff practices among member countries across the region. The CET is designed to encourage trade within West Africa while simultaneously safeguarding domestic industries. Overall, tariffs in Nigeria serve diverse functions, including shielding local producers from external competition, providing a steady source of government revenue, and controlling the movement of goods across national borders.[33]

ii. **Import Prohibitions:** Nigeria has a longstanding practice of limiting or prohibiting the entry of selected commodities, particularly those that can be produced within its borders. The state often employs strict prohibitions and import restrictions, with agricultural products such as rice and a range of manufactured goods being common targets. This

[29] T & A Legal, 'Nigeria First Policy: Ban on Foreign Goods and Services that can be Produced Locally' <https://tundeadisa.com/media_insights/nigeria-first-policy-ban-on-foreign-goods-and-services-that-can-be-produced-locally/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[30] Y Kolawole, 'Bill to Protect Local Manufacturers Passes First Reading at Senate' Vanguard News (21 October 2024*)*<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/10/bill-to-protect-local-manufacturers-passes-1st-reading-at-senate/> *accessed 6 August 2025*

[31]African International Trade and Commerce Research (AITCR), 'The New Trade Policy of Nigeria (TPN) 2023-2027 as amended' <https://africainternationaltrade.com/2023/04/23/the-new-trade-policy-of-nigeria-tpn-2023-2027-as-amended/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[32] Raw Materials 360, 'Revitalizing Nigeria's Manufacturing Sector: The Raw Materials Processing and Local Production Protection Act' <https://360.rmrdc.gov.ng/revitalizing-nigerias-manufacturing-sector-the-raw-materials-processing-and-local-production-protection-act/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[33] D Ohidah and H Bhadmus, 'What Nigerian Agrigood Entrepreneurs Need to Know about Tariffs'<https://vestanceng.com/blog/what-nigerian-agrifood-enterpreneurs-need-to-know-about-tariff> accessed 6 August 2025.

strategy represents a deliberate and forceful form of protectionism, designed to secure a domestic market for local producers. A well-known instance is the restriction on access to foreign exchange for 41 designated import items, a controversial policy that remained in place until its removal in 2023. Measures of this kind are generally adopted to shield domestic industries from external rivalry and to stimulate the use of locally sourced raw materials. Additional examples include import limits on textiles and clothing, as well as bans on certain raw resources like gypsum and kaolin.[34]

iii. **Local Content Requirements (LCRs):** As seen in oil and gas, marine and procurement sector, LCRs are a core part of Nigeria's strategy. This requirement legally compels foreign and domestic companies to use a specified percentage of local labour, goods and services in their operations.[35]

Rationale and Goals for Protecting local Industries:

i. **Protecting Local Industries:** The primary goal is to shield local businesses from unfair competition from foreign companies, allowing them to grow and thrive.[36]
ii. **Promoting Domestic Production:** By making imported goods more expensive or unavailable, these policies encourage local production and consumption.[37]
iii. **Generating Revenue:** Tariffs contribute to government revenue, which can be used to fund public services and infrastructure development.[38]
iv. **Strategic Sector Development:** These measures can be targeted towards specific industries that the government deems strategic for national development, such as agriculture, manufacturing, or pharmaceuticals.[39]

4. The Effects of Trade Policies on Local Industries

Trade policies significantly impact Nigerian local industries, influencing their competitiveness, production costs, and overall performance. While some policies like tariffs can protect nascent industries and encourage local production, others like trade liberalization can expose them to intense foreign competition, potentially leading to challenges for local businesses. The effectiveness of trade policies depends on their design and implementation, as well as the ability of local industries to adapt and innovate.[40]

Positive Effects:

i. **Protectionist Policies:** Historically, Nigeria has used protectionist measures like high tariffs and import bans to shield local industries from foreign competition, particularly in the early stages of development.[41]
ii. **Tariff Implementation:** Tariffs on imported goods can make foreign products more expensive, increasing demand for locally produced goods and potentially boosting local industries.[42]

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[34]Oyejide and Others, 'Import Prohibition as Trade Policy Instrument: The Nigerian Experience' <https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/casestudies_e/case32_e.htm> accessed 6 August 2025.
[35]Trade Policy Brief, 'Local Content Requirements (EN) OECI' <https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2019/12/local-content-requirements_0aaec8f0/5b1c38d5-en.pdf> accessed 6 August 2025.
[36]Raw Materials (n 32) 360
[37]Ohidah and Bhadmus (n 33)
[38]Ohidah and Bhadmus (n 33)
[39]International Trade Administration, 'Nigeria-Trade Barriers' <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeria-trade-barriers> accessed 6 August 2025.
[40]Lagos Free Zone, 'The Impact of Trade Policies on Nigeria's Manufacturing Sector' <https://www.lagosfreezone.com/media/blog/blog-list/the-impact-of-trade/> accessed 6 August 2025
[41]Ibid
[42]A F Oshodi and I A Muhammed, Impact of Trade Policy Reforms on Manufacturing Firms' Performance in Nigeria [2022] (1)(1) *Amity Journal of Management Research* 1-19 <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/

iii. **Export Promotion:** Reduced tariffs on exports can open new markets for Nigerian businesses, encouraging them to explore international opportunities and expand their operations.[43]
iv. **Currency Stability:** Trade policies that promote exchange rate stability can reduce uncertainty for businesses involved in international trade, particularly those relying on imported inputs or exporting goods.[44]
v. **Job Creation:** Increased demand for local products due to trade policies can lead to higher production and job creation within those industries.[45]

Negative Effects:

i. Trade Liberalizations**:** While trade liberalization can lead to increased efficiency and innovation, it can also expose local industries to intense competition from cheaper, better-quality imported goods.[46]
ii. **Currency Fluctuations:** Sudden changes in exchange rates due to trade policies can negatively impact businesses, increase the cost of imported inputs or reduce the competitiveness of exports.[47]
iii. **Import Reliance:** Some trade policies, particularly those involving the removal of import restrictions, can lead to increased reliance on imported goods, potentially harming local industries that rely on those imported inputs.[48]
iv. **Infrastructure Deficiencies:** The effectiveness of trade policies can be hampered by inadequate infrastructure, such as poor transportation networks or unreliable power supply, which can increase production costs for local businesses.[49]
v. **Lack of Supporting Policies:** Liberalization without complementary policies to support local industries, such as access to finance, skills development, and technology transfer, can lead to the collapse of industries that cannot compete with foreign firms. [50]

For Instance, the Nigerian textile industry, once a cornerstone of the nation's industrialization, suffered significantly from trade liberalization and the influx of cheap imported textiles. High tariffs on imported raw materials can increase production costs for Nigerian businesses, while lower tariffs on finished goods may benefit consumers but harm local producers. Trade policies that lead to currency fluctuations can create uncertainty for businesses that rely on imported inputs or export goods. Trade policies play a crucial role in shaping the Nigerian economy and influencing the performance of local industries. A well-designed trade policy can stimulate local industries, promote job creation, and enhance the country's overall economic resilience. However, poorly designed or implemented policies can lead to negative consequences, such as the collapse of local industries, increased reliance on imports, and economic instability. Therefore, it is essential for Nigeria to carefully consider the potential impacts of trade policies on local industries and implement measures to mitigate negative consequences while maximizing the benefits of international trade.[51]

386419786_Impact_of_Trade_Policy_Reforms_on_Manufacturing_Firms'_Performance_in_Nigeria> accessed 6 August 2025.

[43]Chaman Law Firm, 'Impact of Trade Policy on Nigerian Business: Navigating the Complex Landscape'<https://chamanlawfirm.com/legal-advice-for-import-export-businesses-n/> Accessed 6 August 2025.

[44]Chaman Law Firm, 'Unveiling the Hidden Benefits of Trade Policies for Nigerian Entrepreneurs' <https://chamanlawfirm.com/trade-policies/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[45]Novatia Consulting, 'Trade Tariff Impact Research in Nigeria'<https://novatiaconsulting.com/trade-tariff-impact-research-in-nigeria/> accessed 6 August 2025.

[46]Lagos Free Zone (n 40)

[47] Charm Law Firm (n 44)

[48] Lagos Free Zone (n 40)

[49]Ibid

[50]Ibid

[51]Ibid

5. Challenges and Prospects on Trade Policy and Protection of Local Industries

Trade policies that aim to protect local industries face the challenge of balancing domestic growth with global competitiveness. While protectionism can shield nascent industries, it may also hinder innovation, raise prices for consumers, and invite retaliatory measures from other nations. Prospects for local industries lie in strategic trade policies that foster both protection and competitiveness, potentially through regional trade agreements and smart technology integration.[52]

Challenges:

i. **Inconsistent Regulations and Infrastructure Deficiencies:** Fluctuating trade policies, inadequate infrastructure (transport, ports, power), and bureaucratic red tape create uncertainty and increase costs for businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises.[53]
ii. **Potential for Inefficiency and Lack of Innovation:** Shielding industries from competition can reduce incentives for efficiency, innovation, and technological advancement.[54]
iii. **Increased Costs for Consumers:** Protectionist measures, like tariffs, can lead to higher prices for imported goods, impacting consumers.[55]
iv. **Retaliatory Measures:** Protectionist policies can trigger retaliatory actions from other countries, escalating trade tensions and potentially harming export-oriented industries.[56]
v. **Limited Market Access:** Protectionist measures can restrict access to foreign markets for local businesses, hindering their growth potential.[57]
vi. **Corruption and Lack of Transparency:** Corruption and opaque decision-making in government procurement can create unfair advantages and discourage investment. [58]

Prospects:

i. **Strategic Trade Agreements:** Participating in regional trading blocs (like ECOWAS for Nigeria) can provide a buffer against global protectionism and create new market opportunities.[59]
ii. **Harnessing Technology:** Utilizing technology in procurement and supply chain management can help businesses mitigate the impact of protectionism and reduce costs.[60]
iii. **Targeted Protection and Support:** Governments can use targeted tariffs and subsidies to support strategic industries while encouraging them to become more competitive.[61]

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[52]O. I Ajoje and O S Adegboyo, 'Trade Protectionism and the Manufacturing Sector: A Review of Border Closure Policy in Nigeria' [2022](8)(60) *Future Business Journal*<https://fbj.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s43093-022-00170-4> accessed 6 August 2025.
[53]Novatia Consulting, 'Trade Ploicy Research in Nigeria'<https://novatiaconsulting.com/trade-policy-research-in-nigeria/> accessed 6 August 2025.
[54]FOCUSECONOMICS, Implications of Trade Protectionism for the Economic' <https://www.focus-economics.com/blog/effects-of-trade-protectionism-on-economy/> accessed 6 August 2025.
[55]R Dardis, 'Government Intervention and Consumer Welfare: The Impact of International Trade Restrictions' [1986](9) *Journal of Consumer-Policy* 243-260 <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/BF00380296.pdf> accessed 6 August 2025.
[56]C Okogwu and Others, 'Navigating Trade Protectionism: Its Implications on Global Procurement Activities and the Nigeria and U. S. Economic' [2023](1)(1) *Agribusiness Management in Developing Nations* 27-35 <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377509675_NAVIGATING_TRADE_PROTECTIONISM_ITS_IMPLICATIONS_ON_GLOBAL_PROCUREMENT_ACTIVITIES_AND_THE_NIGERIA_AND_US_ECONOMY> accessed 6 August 2025.
[57]G. K. Sanni, 'Nigeria's External Trade and the New Perspective for its Enforcement, CBN Bullion'[2006](30)(1) <https://dc.cbn.gov.ng/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1227&context=bullion> accessed 6 August 2025.
[58]Nigeria-Market Challenges-International Trade Administration'[2023](6)(5) <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeria-market-challenges> accessed 6 August 2025.
[59] Okogwu (n 56)
[60]Ibid
[61]Ibid

iv. **Promoting Innovation and Efficiency:** Encouraging domestic industries to innovate and improve efficiency through targeted support and competition can help them thrive in a globalized market.[62]
v. **Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers:** Streamlining customs procedures, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and promoting transparency can improve the ease of doing business. [63]
vi. **Diversifying Exports:** Developing a diversified export base can reduce reliance on any single market and make the economy more resilient to trade shocks.[64]
vii. **Focusing on Value Added Production:** Shifting from exporting raw materials to producing higher value-added goods can boost economic growth and create more jobs.[65]

Navigating the complexities of trade policy requires a nuanced approach that balances the need to protect local industries with the benefits of global trade and competition. By strategically employing trade policies, fostering innovation, and promoting regional integration, countries can create a more robust and prosperous economy.[66]

6. Conclusion

Trade Policy of Nigeria 2023 – 2027 is part of the government's renewed Hope Agenda, aiming to attract foreign Investment, boost exports, create jobs and prioritize value addition in non-oil exports. The legal analysis of the Nigerian Trade Policy and Protection of Local Industries revealed the complexities of balancing trade liberalization and protection of local industries. Nigeria's trade policy needs to balance protection of local industry with promoting competitiveness and trade liberalization. Initiatives like Nigeria first policy aim to boost local manufacturing and innovation. Addressing infrastructural deficits, ensuring quality standards and enhancing market access are key challenges.

7. Recommendations

i. Policy Reforms: The paper recommends for policy reforms that aligns with Nigeria's economic goals and its international trade obligations.
ii. Enhance Competitiveness: Focus on enhancing competitiveness on local industry through investment in infrastructure, technology and capacity building.
iii. Support SMEs: Provide targeted support for small and medium (SMEs) to promote their participation in domestic and international markets.
iv. Monitor and Evaluate Trade Policy: Regularly monitor and evaluate trade policies to ensure they achieved desired outcomes and address emerging challenges.
v. Promote Regional Integration: Leverage regional agreements like AfCFTA to promote trade and economic integration.

[62] FOCUSECONOMICS (n54)
[63]Novatia Consulting (n 53)
[64] Sanni (n 57)
[65] Ajoje and Adegboyo (n 52)
[66] Novatia Consulting (n 53)