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Influence of Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes on Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Taxation is an important means by which governments raise revenue to finance their projects. Such projects include the construction of roads, provision of health care, provision of qualitative education, provision of water, and provision of electricity which are common features of modern society today. In recent times, technology has played an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of tax generation in Nigeria. This study seeks to examine the influence of the multiplicity of information technology taxes on economic development in Nigeria. The study adopts a survey research design. The population of this study consisted of the employees in Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo who were acquainted with the subject matter. The total number of employees in the organization was forty-two (42). Thus, the population of this study was forty-two (42). The sample size of this study was forty-two (42) employees obtained from the Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo. Analyses for the study were carried out with descriptive statistics and as well as inferential statistics. The various statistical tools used were linear regression, R2, Adjusted R2, t-statistic (t-Stat), variance inflation factor (VIF), Tolerance, Durbin-Watson (DW) Statistic, and P-value. From the analyses of the collected data, it was concluded that the multiplicity of taxes had a negative and significant influence on economic development in Nigeria. This was because the variable of multiplicity of taxes (MITT) all had a negative and significant influence on economic development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Taxes, Multiplicity of taxes Information Technology, Economic development.*

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Background to the Study

Economic development involves an increase in output together with a change in technical and institutional arrangements involved in production. They further argued that economic growth is a subcomponent of economic development because a nation cannot achieve economic development without having achieved economic growth (Dibia and Onwuchekwa, 2019). Taxation is a key instrument for generating revenue for economic development in the state. However, multiplicity of taxation harms the development process. Charges and levies are being increased annually without established parameters. For instance, fees for Aviation Height Clearance Certificates (AHCC) of masts and towers installed by telecommunication companies were increased from as much as 1000-4000% in 2005 (industrial study group: 2012). Ordinarily, most telecommunication companies would have built more based stations to address poor quality of service, but they are constrained by the huge taxes and levies from federal and local government councils.

This study seeks to examine the influence of the multiplicity of information technology taxes on economic development in Nigeria. The study covered multiplicity of various taxes and economic development in Nigeria. The key variable used to represent multiplicity of taxes in this study was the multiplicity of information taxes. The importance of the study cannot be overstressed. The literature would affect the interests of managers of companies in Nigeria, shareholders of companies, government and other researchers. Through its findings, the managers of companies will understand the negative implications of multiplicity of taxes payable to the government on the operations of their companies. To the government, the result of the study will position the policy process and guide administrative operations by the stipulated tax laws. The study might be relevant to shareholders of companies, especially Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo used in the study, to understand the various forms of multiplicity of taxes payable by their companies which normally affect their wealth negatively.

Objective of the Study

Examine the influence of multiplicity of information technology taxes on economic development in Nigeria.

Research Questions

How does multiplicity of information technology taxes influence economic development in Nigeria?

Hypothesis

Multiplicity of information technology taxes does not significantly influence economic development in Nigeria.

Literature review

The concept of taxation

Taxation is an important means by which governments raise revenue to finance their projects. Such projects include the construction of roads, provision of health care, provision of qualitative education, provision of water, and provision of electricity which are common features of modern society today (Nwamuo, 2017). The government also uses taxes to regulate economic activities and the behaviour of economic agents in general. Examples of such use of tax include the regulation and discouragement of production and consumption of commodities considered to be harmful to the health of the consumers. This is achieved through the increase in the excise duty on the production of such commodities, as this will increase the cost of production and in turn, increase their market prices. Tax is also used to protect infant industries and also prevent dumping (Nwamuo, 2017).

Therefore, taxes can be used as an instrument for achieving both micro and macroeconomic objectives, especially in developing countries such as Nigeria. However, Okolo *et al.* (2016) commented that the dwindling level of tax revenue generation in developing countries makes it difficult to use tax as an instrument of fiscal policy for the achievement of economic development. Some governments like Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, and The United Kingdom have substantially influenced their economic development through tax revenue generated from Company Income Tax, Value Added Tax, and Personal Income Tax, and have prospered through tax revenue (Olaoye *et al.*, 2019).

Multiplicity of Taxes

Multiplicity of Taxes refers to unlawful and compulsory payment imposed mostly by local and state governments without legal backing (Zayol *et al.*, 2018). Michael (2014) explained that multiplicity of taxes are situations where the same level of government imposes two or more taxes on the same base. Jelil *et al.* (2017) elaborated on multiplicity of taxes as a situation where a taxpayer is forced by two (2) or more levels of government to pay levies either on the same or similar taxes in a desperate bid to increase their revenue base. It is described as a case where the profit or wealth of an individual or corporate body is taxed more than once. Tax Policies in Nigeria have been used to generate maximum revenue for the government with the sole aim of optimally allocating these resources or redistributing the revenue to the areas neglected (Adebisi and Ibrahim, 2020). Tax authorities in Nigeria have focused on the manipulation of the rates and taxes so that more revenues can be derived. This is one of the reasons for imposing different types of taxes and levies by the tax authorities. These different taxes imposed were supposed to come under one major type of tax but were split into many forms, and as such became a multiplicity of taxes.

Companies' operators battle with high production costs as a result of various taxes and levies that were slammed on them by various agencies and tiers of government. It sounds funny that a company that reels under the burden of maintaining a generator is subjected to pay what the government calls a generator levy. Multiplicity of taxes is a phenomenon which describes an income that is subjected to tax more than once, often by two or more different authorities in a way that may be unfair or illegal. Illegality and unfairness distinguish multiple taxation from double taxation. The former often have the characteristics of being unfair and also illegal. Multiplicity of taxes connotes paying similar taxes on the same or substantially similar tax base. Examples of multiplicity of taxes include company income tax, information technology tax, education tax, Nigerian content development levy all of which are based on income or profits and value-added tax, sales tax and hotel consumption tax which are all based on sales.

Multiple taxes should be distinguished from numerous taxes which mean many but different taxes on different tax bases. Multiple taxations in relation to a company or individual is a situation where the same profit or income respectively which is liable for tax in Nigeria has been subjected to tax by another tax authority in Nigeria or another country outside Nigeria. In such situations, relief is usually granted to that taxpayer for the earlier tax paid or to which he may be liable. Specific arrangements are made to prevent such multiple taxes or to provide relief against them. A firm or any individual that is engaged in any business venture that earns income is subjected to tax. Saka et al. (2021) were of the opinion that as tax is an important source of funds for the development of the economy and the provision of social services, Small and Medium Enterprises surveyed in his work were faced with the problems of high tax rates, multiple taxation, complex tax regulations and lack of proper enlightenment or education about tax related issues. Umoru and Anyiwe (2013) asserted that taxes for SMEs have been more harmful than beneficial as they increase running costs and slow down growth. Most of the SMEs surveyed are faced with the problems of high tax rates, multiple taxation, complex tax regulations and lack of proper enlightenment or education about tax-related issues.

Dibia and Onwuchekwa (2019) while agreeing that multiple taxation is not healthy for the development of corporate entities further asserted that it is a disincentive for their growth and these at times affect their corporate social responsibility where they perceive the host state government as being unfriendly.

Egiyi (2021) stated that multiple taxation is more common in the Local Government than in other tiers of government. The issue of multiple taxation is more pronounced in the telecommunication, hospitality and transportation businesses. Rotimi (2021) found out in his studies that a typical Fast Food Business, Restaurant and Bar in Calabar in the South-East is taxed within 21 subheads. Some amount to double or multiple taxation while some are introductions not recognized by law.

For instance, operational permits are collectable only from kiosks and shops but bigger outfits after paying for business premises are also forced to pay for operational permits. Multiple taxation also manifests in the signpost/advert tax. The jurisdiction for collection of this tax is the local government, but the state also collects tax on the same heading. His result showed that multiple and high rates of tax have impinged negatively on the stability of these businesses and therefore recommends the amendment of the fourth schedule to the 1999 constitution to prune it of excess items which the local government uses to perpetrate multiple and excessive taxation. There are obvious contradictions in respect of taxes collected by all the tiers of government in Nigeria.

In some states, the methods used in collecting these taxes are not only illegal but dehumanizing and violent (Kizitoi, 2014). They asserted that a proper perusal of the Constitution indicates that the Local Government Councils have no powers to legislate on taxes. They can only collect taxes under the authority of a State law which might empower them to make by-laws. But in most of the 774 local government councils in the country, arbitrary laws that will generate funds are passed.

Multiple taxation could be counterproductive if it is excessively applied. The establishment of the Joint Tax Board is to control the imposition of taxes and levies by the appropriate tiers of government and to ensure that whatever tax is imposed is legitimate.

Multiple Taxation in Nigeria

Afuberoh and Okoye (2014) confirmed this argument by asserting that multiple taxation is a huge threat to investment and expansion. He further argued that output from investment is inversely proportional to input in the telecommunication sector because of the harsh tax environment. For instance, in 2009, the Imo State Ministry of Petroleum and Environment introduced an Environment Audit review and certification fee of N30,000 per site without constitutional backing. This was done in a bid to increase the internally generated revenue of the state for development. Be that as it may, it has to be within the framework of the law. Olaoye *et al.* (2019) asserted that multiple taxation is rife at the local government level such as radio levy, wagon levy, generator levy, tenement rate etc. Most of these levies are unknown to law. The case of Eti-Osa local government Vs Jegede in 2007 is still fresh in our minds. The third tier of government is in dire need of development given its location. Local government councils shift the task of development to rural dwellers. The introduction of unknown taxes and levies and the attendant shift of responsibilities to the citizens is not only extortionary but also impoverishing the rural populace. The situation is a duplication of head/subhead from the approved list of Decree 1998 to increase their respective IGR.

Whatsoever that is alien to the Nigerian constitution and our culture is likely to be reviewed. The imposition of some alien taxes and levies outside the decree 1998 approved list of the collection is the cause of the controversy. The illegal levies and charges have pitched the citizenry against governments at all levels. For instance, fees for Aviation Height Clearance Certification (ATTCE) of masts and towers were increased as much as 1000-4000% in 2005. The case between the Lagos State Government and the Federal Government on VAT over Jurisdiction is contentious. Some states in Nigeria have kicked against the collection of VAT in their territory while others have been tacit. The case between Bayelsa State Board of Internal Revenue and FIRS in the collection of VAT and PAYE is also unresolved. The use of consultants in revenue drive has rather worsened the menace. Consultants fashion out taxes and levies without appropriate constitutional backing. Consultants are entitled to a percentage proportionate to the amount generated. Consultants introduce unknown taxes and levies other than the ones in the approved list of collections based on the arrangement with their employers (Nwanakwere, 2019). Consequently, consultants resort to the use of taskforce and security personnel for enforcement. It is on record that most relevant tax authorities resort to extra-judicial methods to drive home their demand.

The collection of taxes and levies both legal and illegal apply unapproved methods such as arbitrary site closure, seizure of equipment, arrest, and physical attacks among others. Some states have attempted to legitimize the illegality by enacting laws to reinforce the ugly trend. The Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMAR) ACT, 2004 was enacted to regulate telecommunication companies but was nullified by the Federal High Court. Similarly, the introduction of the N30,000 Audit Review Certificate fee by the Imo

State Ministry of Petroleum and Environment was also declared illegal. It is prohibitive to block highways in a bid to collect taxes and levies, but agents block highways to collect taxes and levies. Specifically, the Federal Government through the Joint Tax Board has banned the use of unorthodox methods such as blocking highways to press home their levy.

Also, there is an attempt to ban the use of consultants to end illegality in taxation. Be that as it may, incidences of multiple taxations can be addressed through the tax Appeal Tribunal or the Federal High Court is saddled with the responsibility of settling tax disputes. Lagos State Government has a Tax Audit Committee (TARC). The Lagos State Tax Audit Reconciliation Committee is charged with the responsibility of resolving tax disputes. The National Tax Policy Document has prescribed the Nigerian Governors Forum, and National Economic Council amongst others as appropriate mechanisms for resolving tax disputes before recourse to the Supreme Court.

Theoretical Review

Benefit Received Theory

This is a theory of income tax equality that articulates that people should pay taxes based on the benefits received from the government. This theory was formulated by Erik Lindahl of Sweden in 1919. According to this theory, the state should charge taxes on individuals only on how much benefits have been conferred on them. For example, if the funds for road construction and maintenance were gotten from gasoline taxes and highway tolls entirely, this would be in line with the benefit received theory. Those who make use of the highway more would pay more of these taxes, while those who don't use it or just walk by on the road will not pay at all.

This theory has been disapproved in that if the state upholds a certain link between the benefits conferred and the benefits derived, it will be against the basic value of taxation, and it could lead to tax injustices. This is because the poor will pay a bigger amount of tax because they benefit more from the services of the state this is unworkable or in part unacceptable and if this happens, it will be against the principle of justice. Most of the expenditure acquired by the state is for the general benefit of its citizens, and it seems very impossible for them to estimate the benefits enjoyed by individuals every year making this theory difficult to be applied.

Tax is a compulsory contribution made to the public establishments to meet the expenses of the state and delivery of general benefits, therefore if the state sustains a link between benefits conferred and benefits derived, this will not conform to the basic principles of taxation, of which there is no quid pro quo in the case of taxation. This concept has been related to free rider complications because some people might claim they want little or no services being offered. Thus, this theory was adopted in this study.

Empirical Review

Previous studies conducted both locally and internationally were surveyed by the researcher of this study to identify gaps in the literature. These included the following:

Ojo and Oladipo (2017) conducted a study on tax and taxation in Nigeria: Implications on the construction industry sector. The researchers intended to assess the implication of tax and taxation on the construction sector in Nigeria with a view to industry operator's decision-making. Using an extensive review of related literature as well as eliciting primary data through structured questionnaires administered to purposive but randomly selected one hundred (100) respondents, elicited data were analysed using descriptive and inferential tools. The result indicated that value-added tax and withholding tax were most identified, 85% of respondents were aware of the identified taxes while multiplicity of taxes, corruption risk lack of confidence in the tax and poor enforcement of tax laws and policies were ranked major inhibiting factors to tax payment. Yet, tax administration was found to have no insignificant effect on tax payment in Nigeria's tax system. The study's conclusion avail for long-run taxation behaviour on the building and construction sector of the economy and investment decision, it recommended that appropriate guidance and understanding of tax system and policies required by operators/investors and tax authorities to attract tax compliance in the economy.

Patrick and Kase (2018) examined the contribution of tax revenue to the economic growth of Nigeria. The study ascertained the contribution of tax revenue to the economic growth of Nigeria. The study predominantly used secondary sources of data. These data were time series, and data was collected from the CBN statistical bulletin and the Federal Inland Revenue Service. The study covered the period from 1997 to 2016. Ordinary Least Square (OLS) of multiple regression models was used to ascertain the contribution of independent variables to the dependent variable. The finding revealed that there was a significant contribution of Company Income Tax (CIT) and Value Added Tax (VAT) to the economic growth of Nigeria. The finding also revealed that there was no significant contribution of Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

Zayol et al. (2018) investigated the effect of multiple taxation on the financial performance of SMEs In Benue state. The objective of the study was to ascertain the effect of multiple taxation on the financial performance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Benue State. The population of the study was eight hundred and sixteen (816) and the sample size of two hundred and sixty-eight (268) respondents was adopted using the Taro Yamane formula at a 5% error margin. The study adopted a survey design via a questionnaire. Multiple regression was used for analysis in the study. The study found that duplication of Business Premises Registration Tax (DBPRT), Development Levy (DL) and Market Taxes (MT) had a significant negative effect on the financial performance of SMEs and as a result affected their profitability negatively.

Dibia and Onwuchekwa (2019) carried out a study on taxation and economic growth in Nigeria. The study examined the relationship between taxation and the economic growth of Nigeria. It specifically explored the linkages among company income tax, petroleum profit tax and the economic growth of Nigeria proxied with Real Gross Domestic Product, using time series data for the period 1981 to 2016. An ex-post facto research design was employed. The findings indicated that petroleum profit tax (PPT) and company income tax (CIT) showed a positive and significant effect on the Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) in Nigeria.

Aliyu and Mustapha (2020) conducted a study on the impact of tax revenue on economic growth in Nigeria (1981-2017). The study sought to assess empirically the impact of tax revenue on economic growth in Nigeria, spanning from 1981 to 2017. It employed time series data obtained from the CBN statistical bulletins, FIRS annual publications and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) portal. To achieve the objectives of the study, Ordinary Least Square (OLS) and ARDL techniques were employed to estimate the relationships and the dynamics and long-run effects of independent variables on dependent variables. ARDL bound test revealed that the variables are co-integrated while ARDL long-run estimation indicated that petroleum profit, value-added tax and government domestic debt were significant and positively related to GDP. In addition, company income tax and customs and excise duties came out significant but had a negative impact on economic growth.

Table 1: Summary of Empirical Review Continued

S/N	Author(s)	Topic	Methodology	Finding
1.	Ojo and Oladipo (2017).	Tax and taxation in Nigeria: Implications on the construction industry sector.	Using extensive review of related literature as well as eliciting primary data through structured questionnaires (100) respondents, elicited data were analysed using descriptive and inferential tools.	The result indicated that value - added tax and withholding tax were most identified, while multiplicity of taxes, corruption risk lack of confidence in the tax and poor enforcement of tax laws and policies were ranked major inhibiting factors to tax payment.
2.	Patrick and Kase (2018).	The contribution of tax revenue to the economic growth of Nigeria.	Data were time series, and data was collected from the CBN statistical bulletin and the Federal Inland Revenue Service. Ordinary Least Square (OLS) of multiple regression models was used for data analysis.	The finding revealed that there was a significant contribution of Company Income Tax (CIT) and Value Added Tax (VAT) to the economic growth of Nigeria.
3.	Zayol *et al.* (2018).	Effect of multiple taxation on the financial performance of SMEs In Benue state.	The study adopted a survey design via a questionnaire. Multiple regression was used for analysis in the study.	The study found that DBPRT, DL and MT had a significant negative effect on the financial performance of SMEs and as a result affected their profitability negatively.

Source: Researcher's Compilation (2023)

Table 2: Summary of Empirical Review Continued

S/N	Author(s)	Topic	Methodology	Finding
1	Dibia and Onwuchekwa (2019).	Taxation and economic growth in Nigeria.	It specifically explored the linkages among company income tax, petroleum profit tax and the economic growth of Nigeria proxied with Real Gross Domestic Product, using time series data. *An ex -post facto* research design was employed.	The findings indicated that petroleum profit tax (PPT) and company income tax (CIT) showed a positive and significant effect on the Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) in Nigeria.
2	Aliyu and Mustapha (2020).	Impact of tax revenue on economic growth in Nigeria (1981 - 2017).	To achieve the objectives of the study, Ordinary Least Square (OLS) and ARDL techniques were employed to estimate the relationships and the dynamics and long - run effects of independent variables on dependent variables.	ARDL bound test revealed that the variables are co -integrated while ARDL long -run estimation indicated that petroleum profit, value -added tax and government domestic debt were significant and positively related to GDP.

Source: Researcher's Compilation (2023)

Research Design

The study adopts a survey research design. The method allows the researcher to evaluate the influence of multiplicity of taxes on economic development in Nigeria: A study in Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo.

Population and Sample of the Study

The population of this study consisted of the employees in Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo who were acquainted with the subject matter. The total number of employees in the organization was forty-two (42). Thus, the population of this study was forty-two (42). The sample size of this study was forty-two (42) employees obtained from the Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo.

Method of Data Collection

Data were obtained from primary and secondary sources. The method of data collection was primary with the use of a research instrument. The research instrument to be employed in the study in the collection process of data was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered to respondents individually who were the employees of Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo at the time of this study. The questionnaire structured by the researcher was divided into two main parts. The first part focused on the bio-data of the respondents while the second part focused on the variables of the hypothesis.

Variable Description

The key variables of this study were multiplicity of taxes and economic development. The dependent was Economic Development (ED) while the independent variable was multiplicity of taxes measured by Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT). All the variables are described in Table 3:

Table 3: Variable Description

S/N	Variable	Abbr.	Measurement	*Apriori* Expectation
1.	Economic Development	ED	Five-Point Likert Scale	
2.	Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes	MITT	Five-Point Likert Scale	Positive

Source: Researcher's Compilation (2023)

Empirical Specification of Models

The empirical models were stated appropriately in line with the variables in each of the objectives of the study:

$$ED=\beta_o+\beta_1 MITT+e_t \qquad \text{Equation (1)}$$

Where β_1= Coefficient of the independent variables, β_o = Intercept of ED and e_t = Random Error Term.

Model 1 was formulated to test the individual influence of multiplicity of taxes regarded as Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT) on Economic Development (ED) in Nigeria: A study of Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics was used to evaluate the nature of the data collected for the study while inferential statistics was used to establish the influence of multiplicity of taxes on economic development in Nigeria: A study of Champion Brewery Plc, Uyo. The inferential statistics included various regression statistical tools such as R, R^2, Adjusted R^2, t-statistic, p-value, and F-statistics. R was used to establish the relationship between the dependent and independent variables in the study.

R^2 and Adjusted R^2 were used to determine the rate of variation in the dependent variable that was explained by the influence of the predictors (independent variables). The t-statistics and p-value were used to test the significance of individual predictors in each of the models. F-statistics was used to test the significance of individual models in this study. The regression tests were all conducted at a 5% level of significance. Also, the correlation matrix, Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) and Tolerance will be used to check for the existence of multi-collinearity in the combined model of the study.

Reliability Test
The reliability statistics were computed and presented in Table 4:

Table 4: Reliability Test

Variables	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha Statistics
ED	4	0.965
MITT	4	0.961

Source: Researcher's Computation (2023)

From Table 4, it was observed that the Cronbach's Alpha Statistics indicated that the data collected for each of the variables of Economic Development (ED) and Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT) were all greater than sixty percent (60%)* which showed that they were all reliable to this study. ED had 96.5% and MITT had 96.1%. The number of items showed that the questions in each of the variables were four (4). Thus, other analyses can be conducted on the sourced data.

Descriptive Statistics
The descriptive statistics for all the variables of this study were computed and presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics

Variables	N	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
ED	42	3.38	1.63	5.00	4.1071	0.95858
MITT	42	3.63	1.38	5.00	4.0833	0.85347

Source: Researcher's Computation (2023)

From Table 5. Economic Development (ED) had a range of 3.38. This indicated that the difference between the highest and the lowest score with respect to ED for the study was 3.38. The minimum of ED was 1.63 while the maximum was 5.00. The mean (average) was 4.1071. This indicated that the average score for ED in the study was 4.1071. The standard deviation for ED was 0.9586. This indicated that the deviation from the mean that occurred for ED in the study was 0.9586 and it was not high. The observations of forty-two (42) were drawn from the sample size used in the study.

From Table 4, Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT) had a range of 3.63. This indicated that the difference between the highest and the lowest score with respect to EMF for the study was 3.63. The minimum of MITT was 1.38 while the maximum was 5.00. The mean (average) was 4.0833. This indicated that the average score for EMF in the study was 4.0833. The standard deviation for MITT was 0.8535. This indicated that the deviation from the mean that occurred for MITT in the study was 0.8534 and it was not high. The observations of forty-two (42) were drawn from the sample size used in the study.

Test of Hypotheses

The individual hypotheses of this study stated by the objectives were tested using a linear regression statistical tool. The computations were done following the stated models of this study.

The simple linear regression statistics were computed and presented in Table 6:

Table 6: Simple Linear Regression Output

Variable	Beta (β)	t-Stat.	P-Value	Remark	R	R^2	F-ratio
Constant	0.339	7.357	0.000	Significant	0.969	0.940	623.244, prob.<0.05
MITT	-1.089	-24.965	0.000	Significant			

Source: Researcher's Computation (2023)
*Dependent Variable=ED

From Table 5, R^2 showed that 94.0% variation in Economic Development (ED) in Nigeria was caused by the influence of Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT). From the computed value of F-statistics of 623.244 (prob.<0.05), it was discovered that R^2 was significant in explaining the influence of MITT on ED in Nigeria. MITT indicated a negative and significant influence on ED (t-stat.>1.966, p-value<0.05) in Nigeria. It implied that a percentage increase in MITT resulted in -108.9% increase in ED for the period of the study.

The result of the analysis complied with the *apriori* expectation stated by the researcher of the present study. The constant (β_o) of 33.9% showed the level of ED of this study as MITT was held constant and significant (t-stat.> 1.966, p-value<0.05). The null hypothesis, which states that multiplicity of information technology taxes does not significantly influence economic development in Nigeria was rejected and the alternative hypothesis, which states that multiplicity of information technology taxes significantly influences economic development in Nigeria, was accepted on the rationale of t-statistics and p-value computed (t-stat.>1.966, p-value<0.05).

Discussion of the Findings

From Table 5, it was observed that Multiplicity of Information Technology Taxes (MITT) had a negative and significant influence on Economic Development (ED) in Nigeria. The result of the analysis complied with the *apriori* expectation stated by the researcher. The negative influence exerted by MITT on ED was because the coefficient of the independent variable was negative and the significance of MITT on ED was caused by t-statistics and the p-value calculated which were greater than 1.96 and less than 0.05 respectively.

The use of information from technological facilities by companies comes with various charges in Nigeria. These charges in the form of taxes restrict companies from accessing information to grow their firms as a result of the costs involved. As this continues, economic development must be affected negatively. The negative implication of multiplicity of information technology taxes on economic development is attributed to the fact that the taxes imposed on companies are affecting their performance negatively. This study was in line with Jelil *et al.* (2017) who conducted a study on multiplicity of taxes and foreign direct investment: A relational analysis of the Nigerian tax environment.

Conclusion

The study was carried out to ascertain the influence of multiplicity of information technology taxes on economic development in Nigeria. Analyses for the study were carried out with descriptive statistics and as well as inferential statistics. The various statistical tools used were linear regression, R^2, Adjusted R^2, t-statistic (t-Stat), variance inflation factor (VIF), Tolerance, Durbin-Watson (DW) Statistic and P-value. From the analyses of the collected data, it was concluded that multiplicity of taxes had a negative and significant influence on economic development in Nigeria. This was because the variable of multiplicity of taxes (MITT) all had a negative and significant influence on economic development in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were suggested in line with the empirical results:

i. The government of Nigeria should ensure that company income taxes are streamlined in order not to affect the profitability of companies negatively as well as economic development in Nigeria.
ii. The various taxes imposed on information and technology should be curtailed to encourage the use of technological facilities in the country by companies to influence economic development positively.
iii. The multiplicity of taxes should be discouraged by the government to bring about economic development in Nigeria.

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