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## Vietnam's Gig Workers Struggle with Rising Fuel Costs

### Description

After a long day of working as a driver in Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen was upset to find that half of his earnings went on fuel. He explained that he made 240,000 Vietnamese dong (around £9.11) in seven or eight hours but spent 120,000 Vietnamese dong (about £4.56) on petrol. He said, "I can't survive with this amount of money in the city."

Many gig workers in Vietnam are struggling due to rising fuel prices caused by the ongoing war involving Iran. Normally, Vietnam gets about 80% of its crude oil from Kuwait, but supplies have decreased, making fuel more expensive. Diesel prices have more than doubled, and petrol costs have risen nearly 30%. This affects the cost of getting around, particularly in Ho Chi Minh City, which has over 7 million motorcycles.

In response to these problems, the Vietnamese government has introduced emergency measures. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced he would suspend an environmental tax on diesel and petrol until mid-April to help control prices. Researchers believe these steps are necessary to avoid further public anger over rising living costs.

Transportation and businesses are increasingly affected. Public transport is overcrowded, while companies are losing money despite raising prices. Many drivers need to work longer hours but lack protections such as minimum wage. As authorities seek short-term solutions, they must also plan for greater energy independence in the future.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **earnings** //ˈɜːnɪŋz// (noun): money a person receives for their work
2. **gig** //gɪɡ// (noun): a short-term job, often freelance or temporary
3. **crude** //kruːd// (adjective): in a natural state before processing
4. **supplies** //səˈplaɪz// (noun): things provided for use, like fuel
5. **suspend** //səˈspend// (verb): to stop something for a short time
6. **independence** //ˌɪndɪˈpendəns// (noun): freedom to control something on its own

### Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. How much did Nguyen earn in a day as a driver?
  - Option: 120,000 VND
  - Option: 240,000 VND
  - Option: 300,000 VND
  - Option: 180,000 VND
  
2. What percentage of Vietnam's crude oil typically comes from Kuwait?
  - Option: 60%
  - Option: 70%
  - Option: 80%
  - Option: 90%
  
3. How much has diesel prices increased by?
  - Option: By 10%
  - Option: By 20%
  - Option: More than doubled
  - Option: By 30%
  
4. Who announced the suspension of the environmental tax?
  - Option: Nguyen
  - Option: Pham Minh Chinh
  - Option: The President
  - Option: The Minister of Finance
  
5. What is causing gig workers in Vietnam to struggle?
  - Option: Increased rentals
  - Option: Rising fuel prices
  - Option: Less work available
  - Option: High tax rates
  
6. What measures has the Vietnamese government taken to help control prices?
  - Option: Increasing taxes
  - Option: Suspending environmental tax
  - Option: Subsidizing petrol
  - Option: Reducing fuel supply



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### True-False

7. Nguyen only earned 120,000 Vietnamese dong in a day.
8. The prices of diesel have decreased in Vietnam recently.
9. Ho Chi Minh City has over 7 million motorcycles.
10. The government has not taken any measures to control fuel prices.
11. Public transport in Vietnam is becoming less crowded.
12. Gig workers in Vietnam are receiving more protections such as minimum wage.

### Gap-Fill

13. Nguyen spends \_\_\_\_\_ on petrol.
14. The cost of petrol has risen nearly \_\_\_\_\_ percent.
15. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced he would suspend an environmental tax on diesel and petrol until \_\_\_\_\_ to help control prices.
16. Many gig workers are struggling due to rising \_\_\_\_\_ prices.
17. Transportation and businesses are increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ by rising fuel prices.
18. Many drivers need to work longer hours but lack \_\_\_\_\_ such as minimum wage.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 240,000 VND 2. 80% 3. More than doubled 4. Pham Minh Chinh 5. Rising fuel prices  
6. Suspending environmental tax

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 120,000 14. 30 15. mid-April 16. fuel 17. affected 18. protections

### CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL3



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