



JESUIT CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

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BNNB STATEMENT

January 31st 2025

Actualising Improved Living Conditions for All in 2025

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB) for January now amounts to ZMW 10,800.56 for a family of five in Lusaka, a ZMW 32.90 reduction from December 2024. The decrease in the total basket was attributed to changes in the prices of commodities such as kapenta which decreased to ZMW 417.08 from ZMW 493.46 for 1kg and vegetables which reduced to ZMW 555.35 from ZMW 725.88 for 40kg. On the other hand, some of the commodities recorded increases in their prices. The price of onion increased to ZMW 33.56 from ZMW 17.11 for 1kg while the cost of other fruits increased to ZMW 15.68 from ZMW 9.07 for 1kg and the cost of a 90kg bag of charcoal increased to ZMW 469.67 from ZMW 442.80.

Despite this reduction, the total cost of the BNNB remains high, reflecting the high cost of commodities on the market. The net effect of the reduction, on a month-to-month basis, remains negligible given the monthly increase of ZMW 440.31 that was experienced in December, 2024.

During the previous year, JCTR observed that households faced many economic challenges with increased commodity prices, particularly for food items that were affected by the drought which impacted the supply and ultimately the cost of food items. Additionally, the energy crisis and increased fuel pump prices affected households and business operations. As 2025 begins, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection notes that the high cost of food items compromises the nutritional intake of individuals, their health and their ability to live a dignified life. Guided by Catholic Social Teachings, JCTR urges the government to embrace the values of human dignity and the option for the poor in addressing the high cost of living by ensuring every citizen has access to their basic needs and services.

It is therefore imperative that the government strengthen their efforts and interventions to address the high cost of living. If not addressed urgently, inequalities, poverty and food insecurity may persist and worsen. In this regard, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection therefore makes the following recommendations;

1. *Strengthening Value Chains*: Strengthening value chains in key sectors such as agriculture is vital for improved livelihoods of smallholder farmers, in particular, fostering economic development and empowerment.
2. *Quarterly Review of Fuel Pump Prices*: The government should consider reviewing its monthly fuel price revisions quarterly. This will allow businesses to plan efficiently and provide relief to business operations
3. *Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in the Local Authorities*: Given the limited resources available for development and the country's increasing needs as the population grows, available resources must not be misused or misappropriated.
4. *Household measures*: JCTR also calls for Zambians who can afford to be more considerate of the poor and vulnerable by sharing the excess they have and not let it go to waste.

The realisation of social and economic transformation for improved livelihoods as prescribed in the Eighth National Development Plan will require stronger actions towards initiatives that result in improved income levels, decent housing and access to essential services.

ISSUED BY: Ms. Lukwesa Musonda – *Social & Economic Development Programme Officer*

For further clarifications, contact the Social and Economic Development (SED) Programme at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) on 0955295881 or 0954755319, or email media.information@jctr.org.zm. Address: Martin Mwamba Road, Plot 3813, Olympia Park, Lusaka. Postal: P.O. Box 37774, Lusaka – Zambia.

“A JUST ZAMBIAN SOCIETY GUIDED BY FAITH, WHERE EVERYONE ENJOYS FULLNESS OF LIFE”

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)

JCTR Repository

<https://repository.jctr.org.zm>

Statements

Advocacy on Living Conditions

2025-01-31

January 2025 Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket Statement: Actualising Improved Living Conditions for All in 2025

Musonda, Lukwesa

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