

BNNB analysis-all towns

18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

### A Brief Analysis of the Cost of Living in Lusaka and Other Towns

The average cost of living in December 2022 stood at K6, 354.44 reflecting a K264.58 increase compared to November 2022. Remaining K2, 139.44 above the 2021 national average income of K4, 215<sup>1</sup>.

Lusaka, the capital city, remained the most expensive city to live in after registering a significant change, a K415.62 increase in the month of December 2022. Solwezi was the second most expensive town to live in after Lusaka, with a basket of K8, 188.02, owing largely to the higher cost of housing in the district. Kasama, on the other hand, finished the year as the cheapest town to live in, with the basket standing at K4, 314.9.

Fluctuations in the basket were observed across most districts, with an increase in food items such as roller mealie meal and kapenta due to the fish ban season, which occurs annually between December and February. While important, these measures result in lower protein and other fatty acid uptake (kapenta is high in protein). It is hoped that as the country moves away from the fish ban season next month, the price of the commodity, which appears to have remained high in most districts, can be regulated. The non-food section also recorded an increase in charcoal prices. Generally, the price of the commodity goes up during the wet season when the product becomes scarce due to the fact that wood takes longer to dry than it does during the dry. With few or no viable alternatives to charcoal, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) remains of the view that the commencement of load shedding will inevitably increase demand and affect commodity prices.

The towns below recorded a reduction in the basket;

Kasama reduced to K4, 314.94 from K4404.1, Luanshya reduced to K5, 621.22 from K5, 910.60, Mazabuka reduced to K5, 896.4 from K6, 059.26 and Monze reduced to K5, 496.65 from K5, 603.29,

The towns below recorded an increase in the basket;

Chinsali increased to K5, 502.3 from K4, 964, Choma increased to K6, 298.28 from K6, 048.3, Kabwe increased to K7, 150.84 from K6, 875.24, Kitwe increased to K7, 218.20 from K6, 661.71, Livingstone increased to K6, 757.14 from K6, 366.17, Mansa increased to K5, 202.22 from K4, 402.59, Mongu increased to K5, 437.1 from K4, 952.2, and Mpika went slightly up to K5, 960.05 from K5, 935.08. Similarly, Ndola went up to K7, 290.3 from K7, 275.24 and Solwezi increased to K8, 188.02 from K8, 129.49.

**For further clarifications contact the Social and Economic Development (SED) Programme at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) on 0955295881 and 0954755319. Email: [manager.sed@jctr.org.zm](mailto:manager.sed@jctr.org.zm) and [admin@jctr.org.zm](mailto:admin@jctr.org.zm), Martin Mwamba Road, Plot 3813 Martin Mwamba Road, Olympia Park – Lusaka. P. O. Box 37774 Lusaka – Zambia**

<sup>1</sup> 2021 Labor Force survey data