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## BNNB Statement

7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

### *A New Hope for the Zambian People through Macroeconomic Stability*

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) Basic Needs and Nutrition Basket (BNNB) for a family of five living in Lusaka in the month of August 2021 stood at K8, 413.65. This showed a K81.87 decline from the July basket which stood at K8, 495.52. The movement in the basket is attributed to price movements in items such as 2kg of soya pieces which went down by K64.56 to K108.81 from K173.37, 14kg of other fruits which reduced by K18.74 from K316.56 to K297.82, 2kg of beef reduced by K16.57 from K155.14 to K138.57, 3.6 litres of cooking oil showed a decline of K17.17 moving to K148.94 from K166.11, a kg of pounded groundnuts reduced by K15.52 from K61.22 to K45.70, the price of 40kg of vegetables reduced by K15.24 from K517.08 to K501.24. The basket recorded price increases in food items such as 16kg of bananas increased by K36.49 from K217.05 to K253.54 and from the non-food but essential items, the price of 2 90kg bags of charcoal increased by K18.4 from K720 to K738.4.

The abundance of soya beans on the market given the harvesting season has been noted and might have contributed to the downward change in the price of soya pieces. Additionally, the price of other fruits (constitutes apples and oranges)) has shown further decline to K297.82 from the high June price of K431.91, attributed to the significant downwards movements in the exchange rate as other fruits are mainly imported. The other notable decline was in the price of vegetables attributed to seasonal change as the country heads to the warmer season.

In reflecting on the August 2021 BNNB, the Centre does note significant developments that formed part of the context of this crucial month. Firstly, the month of August commenced with the start of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2020-2022 under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security whose key priorities areas include; enhanced economic diversification to create more and better job opportunities for all, especially for young people, and comprehensive strengthened social protection systems. Secondly, Zambia witnessed yet another peaceful transition of political leadership and the inauguration of the new President held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Top on the agenda of the new administration is to restore the nation's macroeconomic stability towards a united, prosperous Zambia that guarantees basic needs for all its citizens. JCTR is elated that the new administration's drive for economic stability has kept human dignity as a key part of its agenda by promising to address the basic needs for all citizens. Additionally, the agricultural sector's role in lowering the cost of living especially for essential food items is evident. We urge the new administration to remain unwaveringly committed to this drive and register improved living conditions for its citizens in its five year tenure.

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