CPI AND INFLATION RATES FOR MARCH 2012

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and rates of inflation for March 2012. These numbers have been generated using data collected during the second and third weeks of the month under review. The prices were obtained from selected retail outlets in 25 data collection zones located in 13 urban centers.

As shown in Table 1 and Table 2, the CPI increased by 1.34 per cent from 130.76 in February 2012 to 132.51 in March 2012. The overall inflation rate stood at 15.61 per cent in March 2012.

Table 1: One Month and Twelve Months' Changes in the Price Indices

Broad Commodity Group	CPI Weight	% Change on March 2012/Feb 2012	% Change on Previous Year Mar 2012/Mar 2011
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.03	2.44	20.31
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	2.06	1.06	15.03
Clothing & Footwear	7.43	0.63	11.67
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.30	0.82	13.02
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.04	12.64
Health	3.13	0.72	7.30
Transport	8.67	-0.22	12.97
Communication	3.82	0.03	7.31
Recreation & Culture	2.25	0.24	11.41
Education	3.14	0.19	6.34
Restaurant & Hotels	4.49	1.12	20.09
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	4.52	0.69	11.80
	100.00	**1.34**	**15.61**

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

		Base Period	February 2009=100
Month	CPI 2011	CPI 2012	Rate of Inflation (% Change on 2012/2011)
January	110.57	130.82	18.31
February	112.06	130.76	16.69
March	114.62	132.51	15.61
April	118.29		
May	119.48		
June	120.91		
July	122.44		
August	123.97		
September	125.23		
October	127.20		
November	129.13		
December	130.09		
Annual average	121.17		

Food and Non Alcoholic drinks' index increased by 2.4 per cent between February 2012 and March 2012.The increase was mainly due to rise in prices of milk, potatoes, kale (*sukuma wiki*), tomatoes and onions in March compared to February. For instance, a half litre packet of milk was retailing at an average price of KSh 38 in March 2012 compared to KSh 34 in February 2012 a rise of 11.8 per cent. Food prices have increased by 20.3 per cent in March 2012 compared to March 2011.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels index rose by 0.82 per cent between February2012 and March 2012 due to increase in the cost of electricity. In March 2012, the cost of 200 KWh units of electricity was KSh 3,454 compared to KSh 3,132 in February 2012 an increase of 10.3 per cent.

During the month under review, Transport index declined by 0.2 per cent due to marginal reduction of diesel prices and public transport. Prices of most of the other commodities in the Consumer Prices basket remained relatively stable in March compared to February 2012 levels.