CPI AND INFLATION RATES FOR MAY 2012

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and rates of inflation for May 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 0.26 per cent from 133.74 in April 2012 to 134.09 in May 2012. The overall inflation rate stood at 12.22 per cent in May 2012.

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

Broad Commodity Group	CPI Weight	% Change on May 2012 /April 2012)	% Change on Previous Year (May 2012/ May 2011)
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	-0.18	14.58
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	2.06	0.15	12.01
Clothing & Footwear	7.43	0.80	10.94
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.30	0.22	10.80
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	2.24	12.58
Health	3.13	0.05	6.42
Transport	8.66	0.79	8.42
Communication	3.82	0.00	7.43
Recreation & Culture	2.25	0.22	10.91
Education	3.14	0.24	7.10
Restaurant & Hotels	4.48	0.90	18.07
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	4.52	0.13	10.77
Total	**100.00**	**0.26**	**12.22**

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates **February 2009=100**

Month	Overall CPI	Overall Rate of Inflation
May-2011	119.48	12.95
Jun-2011	120.91	14.49
Jul-2011	122.44	15.53
Aug-2011	123.97	16.67
Sep-2011	125.23	17.32
Oct-2011	127.20	18.91
Nov-2011	129.13	19.72
Dec - 2011	130.09	18.93
Jan - 2012	130.82	18.31
Feb-2012	130.76	16.69
Mar-2012	132.51	15.61
Apr-2012	133.74	13.06
May-2012	134.09	12.22

Food and Non Alcoholic drinks' index fell by 0.18 per cent between April 2012 and May 2012. The decrease was mainly due to falls in prices of some food products such as *sukuma wiki*, cabbages, spinach, onions and oranges in May compared to April 2012. On the other hand, there were significant rises in the prices of maize flour, maize grain and wheat flour among other food items over the same period. The price increases were however outweighed by the decreases and the resultant overall food index was lower than in the previous month.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' index increased by 0.22 per cent between April and May 2012. Whereas the prices of Firewood, charcoal and house rents slightly went up, Electricity and cooking gas prices declined by 6.0 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively. The average cost of consuming 200 units of electricity for instance declined from KSh 3,494.00 in April 2012 to KSh 3,286.00 in May 2012.

The Transport index rose by 0.79 per cent between April 2012 and May 2012 due to higher costs of Taxi charges, public transport fares and petrol.