

SA paying 12% more for food than last year

Covid-19, Ukraine war, KZN unrest and floods main contributors

By **Suthentira Govender**

The Covid-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, unrest and the KwaZulu-Natal floods have contributed to South Africans forking out nearly 12% more for basic food items compared to a year ago.

The latest Household Affordability Index, compiled by the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group (PM-BEJD) which tracks food price data from 44 supermarkets and 30 butcheries in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg and Springbok in Northern Cape, shows that the average cost of the food basket increased by R472.78 (11.4%), from R4,137.11 in May 2021 to R4,609.89 in May 2022.

Food baskets increased in all areas tracked month-on-month. According to the index, 22 of the 44 foods in the basket shot up in price.

"The significant increases

(5% and above) are: cooking oil on a 5l bottle, potatoes, onions, chicken livers, carrots and spinach. Increases also include maize meal, cake flour, frozen chicken portions, stock cubes, wors, tomatoes, cabbage and white bread."

PMBEJD co-ordinator Mervyn Abrahams said higher commodity prices, production and logistical costs would continue to drive prices upwards and are likely to continue rising for the rest of year.

"Long supply lines make us vulnerable to food insecurity at both global and local levels. Covid-19, the Russia/Ukraine conflict, local climatic disasters and social unrest, including daily service delivery protests which disrupt logistics and production, suggest that we need to seriously re-think our levels of exposure to global commodity price movements and speculation and in the long food supply chains



Food baskets increased in all areas tracked month-on-month. According to research, 22 of the 44 foods in the basket shot up in price. /SUPPLIED

which impact negatively on household food security," Abrahams said.

"Our over-exposure to global supply lines suggest we need to build national capacity and reserves as an immediate and long-term mitigation strategy, including investing more in local agricultural input capacity and small-scale farmers to produce food closer to the table where it is consumed."

"The recent flooding in KwaZulu-Natal – for the second time in a matter of weeks – has seen yet another spike in the baskets of Pietermaritzburg and Durban. These come on top of the extremely high April increases, in both

cities. Heavy rains and flooding impact on agricultural production and produce. The immediate impact, however, is on transporting goods on roads.

"We have seen examples over the past 18 months of why a functioning railway system offers food safeguards and security. This time, we saw it with the KZN floods."

Abrahams said effective and efficient railways are a buffer against disaster but with the soaring diesel price, railways also offer more efficient, more

reliable, and cheaper modes of transportation.

"SA's long value chains, which see food that is now grown very far from our tables and having to be transported very long distances to reach our tables, are being put under severe stress.

"The long food value chains make us vulnerable to food insecurity, but especially if our fuel prices continue to escalate, and if our transportation systems and governance system are vulnerable."

By **Constance Gaanakomo**

Seasoned actress and choreographer Lorcia Cooper is set to make a return to *Scandal!* after she left the soapie a couple of years ago.

The soapie said it is going to revive a storyline involving Dintle (Mapaseka Nyokong) and a child she had years ago.

"All the *Scandal!* legacy fans will remember Lorcia Cooper, who played Erin on the show so many years ago. In the story, Dintle decided that it was best to let go of her newborn child due to her financial situation at the time. Erin and Tino decided to adopt the child and treat her as their own – on the understanding that Dintle would not interfere in the process at all, even in the future," read the statement.

At the time Cooper opened up to TV Plus magazine about her reason for leaving.

"It's very simple," she said. "When it's time, it's time. I've been in soapies for so long. I've been on *Scandal!* for four years and before that I was on *Backstage*. So I just

Lorcia Cooper returns to Scandal! as Erin

Actor back to fight for her adopted daughter



Lorcia Cooper is set to return to Scandal!

/ OUP/BOPAPE / GALLO IMAGES

felt that it was time for something new."

She said she would always be open to the prospect of returning to the *Scandal!* set, but only on a temporary basis.

Cooper told TshisaLIVE she left TV screens for a while because she felt like she was being typecast and needed to reposition herself.

"I needed to be able to know who I was and what I could give. When you discover what you have to give, you become invaluable to yourself. I also think that being coloured in this industry is a flipping hard thing because there are not a lot of roles for coloured people any more, not on our local screens anyway," she said at the time.

NKANGALA

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE AMENDMENT OF CONTRACTS

In compliance with Section 116(3) of the MFMA No. 56 of 2003, the NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY intends to amend the contracts of the following projects as per Council Resolutions DM-ND466/05/2022, DM-ND467/05/2022, DM-ND472/05/2022 and DM-ND473/05/2022 of 25 May 2022, by amending the scope, time, and costs of the project:

1. DM-ND466/05/2022 Related Project:

- Project Number = 7054/12.
- Project Description = Rendering of Security Services within Nkangala District Municipality Buildings.
- Service Provider = Messrs. Black Protectors' Security Services
- Contract Amount = R 12 301 979.04 excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).
- Total Amendment Construction Cost = R 5 182 599.12 excluding VAT.
- Revised Contract Amount = R 17 484 578.00 excluding VAT.
- Time Implications = Additional 12 Months.
- Reasons for Amendment = National Treasury PPPFA advise that all state organs put all tenders on abeyance until the court judgement has been complied with. The Security Services are one of the essential services and its contract is lapsing on the 31st of May 2022

2. DM-ND467/05/2022 Related Project:

- Project Number = 8903.
- Project Description = Repairs and Maintenance of NDM Buildings
- Service Provider = Messrs. Crane-Fly Trading
- Contract Amount = R 8 500 000.00 excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).
- Total Amendment Construction Cost = R 2 000 000.00 excluding VAT.
- Revised Contract Amount = R 10 500 000.00 excluding VAT.
- Time Implications = Additional 12 Months.
- Reasons for Amendment = National Treasury PPPFA advise that all state organs put all tenders on abeyance until the court judgement has been complied with. The Repairs and Maintenance of NDM Building contract is one of the essential services for business continuity and its contract is lapsing on the 31st of May 2022

3. DM-ND472/05/2022 Related Project:

- Project Number = 57527.
- Project Description = Upgrading of Tokologo (Ezinyokeni) Road, Phase 2, in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.
- Service Provider = Messrs. Qubekelaphambili Construction and Projects.
- Contract Amount = R 10 035 462.93 excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).
- Total Amendment Construction Cost = R 10 688 652.80 excluding VAT.
- Revised Contract Amount = R 20 704 115.73 excluding VAT.
- Time Implications = Additional 6 Months for the Additional Scope for Successful Completion and a fully Operational Project.
- Reason for Amendment = Additional Scope of Work:

- General Requirements, Provisions and Obligations,
- Housing, Offices, Laboratories and Accommodation of Traffic,
- Overhaul, Clearing, Grubbing and Dayworks,
- Drains, Prefabricated Culverts, Concrete Kerbing, Concrete Channelling, Chutes, and Downpipes, etc.,
- Borrow Materials, Stockpiling and Breaking-Down the Material from Borrow Pits,
- Mass Earthworks, Pavement Layers of Gravel Material, Stabilisation, and Crushed Stone Base,
- Pitching, Stonework, and Protection against Erosion,
- Gabions, Fencing, Road Signs, Road Markings, Landscaping, Finishing the Road Reserve and Treating Old Roads,
- Concrete Block Paving for Roads, and
- Testing Material and Workmanship, and Training.

4. DM-ND473/05/2022 Related Project:

- Project Number = 54790.
- Project Description = Moripe Gardens and Madubaduba Water Supply, Phase 1, in Dr. J.S. Moroka Local Municipality.
- Service Provider = Messrs. Stickson/ Mopan JV.
- Contract Amount = R 25 095 573.50 excluding Value Added Tax (VAT).
- Total Amendment Construction Cost = R 3 939 677.64 excluding VAT.
- Revised Contract Amount = R 29 035 251.14 excluding VAT.
- Time Implications = Additional 1.5 Months for the Additional Scope.
- Reasons for Amendment = Additional Scope of Work in Makometsane Village for Successful Completion and a fully Operational Project:
 - Construction of a 1.8km 160mm uPVC Bulk Pipeline to feed the Water Treatment Package Plant, and 0.25km of 110mm diameter uPVC Bulk Pipeline,
 - Construction of Air and Scour Valves,
 - Supply and Installation of a Water Treatment Package Plant, and
 - Connection from the Supply and Installation a 0.7 ML Elevated Steel Tank, and Outlet Chamber to the Internal Water Reticulation.

Members of the local communities wishing to submit comments, inputs or representations may do so in writing to: The Municipal Manager, Nkangala District Municipality, 2A Walter Sisulu Street, Middleburg, 1050, and deposit these in the tender box, on the ground not later than 16h00 on 21 June 2022. Alternatively, enquiry can be directed via email or telephonically to Mr. D.J.D Mahlangu (for Project DM-ND472/05/2022 and DM-ND473/05/2022) mahlangudjd@nkangaladm.gov.za (0132492004) or Mr. N.M Motshwene (for Project DM-ND466/05/2022 and DM-ND467/05/2022) motshwennm@nkangaladm.gov.za (0132492070).