## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 2010 = 100

## MARCH 2015 Rev %CHANGE Mar 15 Mar 14/ Mar 15/ Mar Mar Mar **FEB** Code **FEB 15** Description Mar 14 Mar 13 2015 WEIGHTS 2015 2014 2013 **ALL PRODUCTS** 100.00 106.83 107.88 109.76 106.72 -0.98 -1.71 0.10 FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 117.19 114.37 0.28 -0.03 11.01 20.35 114.69 117.22 2.19 11.02 122.88 115.39 122.98 4.90 ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, AND TOBACCO 1.83 121.05 1.51 -0.08 11.03 **CLOTHING AND FOOTWARE** 3.66 100.49 101.64 103.81 100.31 -1.13 -2.09 0.18 HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS 11.04 & OTHER FUELS 29.05 103.34 106.15 106.29 103.27 -2.65-0.13 0.07 FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT 11.05 & ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE 108.62 109.98 112.00 -1.24 4.5 110.68 -1.80 -1.86 11.06 **HEALTH** 1.94 129.86 126.15 125.69 129.16 2.94 0.36 0.54 11.07 TRANSPORT 18.72 108.10 111.88 109.24 107.13 -3.38 2.42 0.91 **COMMUNICATION** 10.03 0.00 11.08 90.96 90.96 114.77 90.96 0.00 -20.74 11.09 RECREATION AND CULTURE 2.71 106.65 106.37 102.11 107.39 0.26 4.17 -0.69 122.33 11.10 **EDUCATION** 0.83 118.43 113.99 120.96 3.29 3.90 1.14 **RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS** 11.11 1.81 107.25 107.25 104.90 107.25 0.00 2.24 0.00 11.12 MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES -0.07

The above table shows a computation of the Consumer Price Index for the month of March 2015, with changes for the previous month February 2015 and the corresponding month of last year March 2014. The overall index moved from 106.72 index points in February 2015 to 106.83 index points in March 2015 representing an increase of 0.10%. An examination of the following sub-groups revealed the following.

104.20

104.34

103.88

104.28

-0.13

0.44

4.59

The major group "Clothing and Footwear" increased by 0.18% resulting from price increases in Men and Children Clothing of 1.12%, and 2.94% respectively. "Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel" which has the largest weight share increased by 0.07% mainly due to an increase in the price of Cooking Gas 5.78%, despite this increase the price of electricity declined by 1.41%. "Health" recorded an increase of 0.54% as the price of Pharmaceutical Products increased by 1.17%. "Transport" increased by 0.91% mainly influenced by an increase in the price of Motor Vehicle Fuel by 8.50% and Passenger Transport services by Air fell by 4.09% which was offset by the above increase. "Education" also increased by 1.14% due to an increase in the cost of Tuition Education at the Tertiary level of 1.67%.

The major group "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages" which has the second highest weight share declined by 0.03% resulting from a price decrease in the price of Rice 0.25%, Pasta Products by 0.10%, Poultry 0.19%, Preserved Milk 0.07%, Eggs 1.62%, Cooking Oil 0.30%, Fresh Fruit 0.38%, Fresh Vegetables 0.06%, Potatoes 0.13% and Jams 0.37%. "Alcohol Beverages and Tobacco" decreased by 0.08% due to a decline in the price of Alcohol Spirits of 0.35%. "Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance" declined by 1.86% resulting from a decline in the price of Living Room Furniture 15.72% and Household Textiles 2.30%. "Recreation and Culture" and "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" also declined by 0.69% and 0.07% respectively due to a decline in the price of Personal Computers 3.47% and Personal Care Products 0.15%. The other groups remained relatively constant.

Relative to the corresponding month of last year, the Consumer Price Index moved from 107.88 index points in March 2014 to 106.83 index point in March 2015 representing a decline of 0.98%. The major group recorded the following decreases:- "Clothing and Footwear" 1.13%, "Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel" 2.65%, "Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance" 1.24%, "Transport" 3.38% "and "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" 0.13%. The following items contributed to these decreases:- Men and Women Clothing 2.32%, and 3.79% respectively, Electricity 9.18%, Cooking Gas 13.96%, Living-room and dining-room Furniture 13.20%, Small Tools and Miscellaneous Accessories 1.90%, Motor Vehicle Fuel 22.71% and Personal Care Products 0.26%. All the other groups recorded increases between 0.26% and 3.29% resulting from Price increase of the following: Bakery Products excluding Bread 1.43%, Beef and Veal 7.21%, Pork 6.51%, Mutton 3.02%, Poultry 3.73%, Fish 2.80%, Preserved Milk 3.84%, Cheese 11.68%, Margarine 3.37%, Fresh Fruit 6.08%, Fresh Vegetables 3.55%, Jams Marmalades and Honey 10.44%, Spirits 2.16%, Wine 0.97%, Tobacco 3.37%, Pharmaceutical Products 4.97%, Medical Services 2.23%, Books 6.18% as a result of an increase in the price of Drafting Books for Secondary Schools, and Tertiary Education

Accordingly, the inflation rate for the period March 2015 is negative 0.98%. This can be compared to a decrease of 1.71% for the same period in 2014.

Halim Brizan **Director of Statistics**