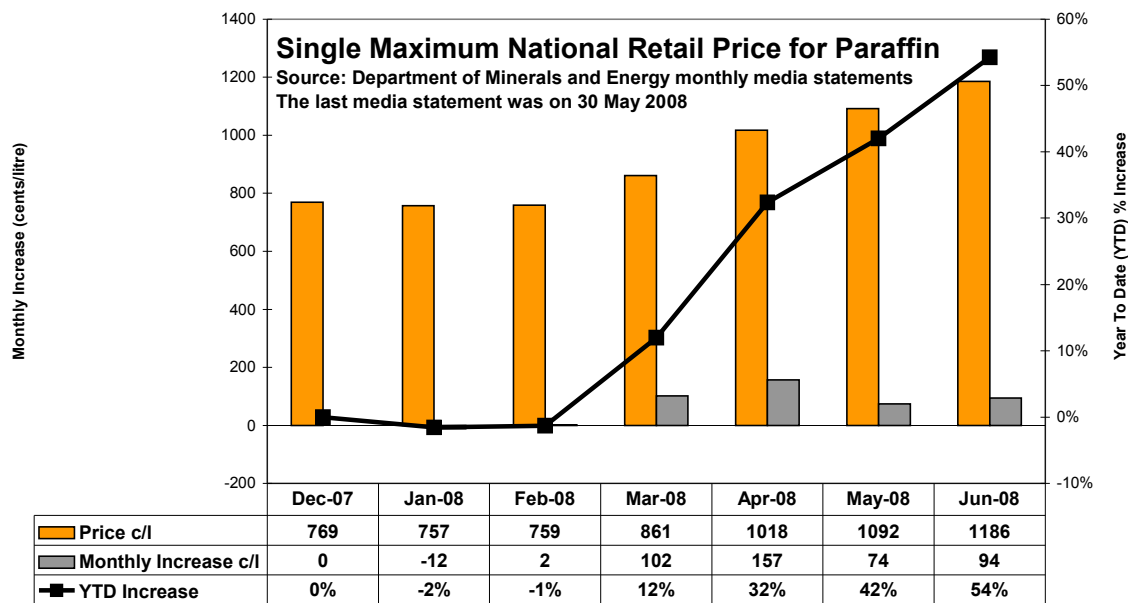




4 June 2008

**MEDIA RELEASE: Record price hikes for Paraffin Safety Month**

As the National Energy Regulator of South Africa deliberates on the hearings over ESKOM’s proposed 60% rate hike, it is a cruel irony that a record paraffin price hike comes into effect almost unnoticed. The real price of paraffin has increased by 54% this year alone!



The price of paraffin has increased from R7.69 per litre in December 2007 to R11.86 (effective 4 June 2008), a hike of 54.23%. This is an increase of 11% or R6.24 over two years from the May 2006 price of R5.62. The price quoted is the Single Maximum National Retail Price (SMNRP) for Illuminating Paraffin set monthly by the Department of Minerals and Energy. The Minister of Minerals and Energy has approved the implementation of a SMNRP for Illuminating Paraffin with effect from 2 April 2003. The Single SMNRP will change on a monthly basis from the first Wednesday of each month and will also be promulgated in the Government Gazette. Sadly certain traders charge more than the SMNRP even when the cost of their packaging does not justify it.

It is against this backdrop that the Paraffin Safety Association is holding a range of annual paraffin safety month events across the country, in partnership with government departments and NGOs interested in health and consumer rights promotion, to highlight awareness of household energy safety and rights issues.

The price increase is attributed primarily to growing demand for energy world wide outstripping supply. Energy shortages and price hikes make it essential for a careful rethink about optimal utilisation of available energy and how best to conserve it. This news comes at a time when the poor can least afford it.

**The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa** (association incorporated under sect. 21) Reg no: 1997/018719/08 VAT no: 4040155477

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“The fact that the poor and marginalised are the traditional users of paraffin may point to why there has been little attention given to the actual paraffin price hike as compared to the threat of a potential 53% electricity hike. Similarly, insufficient attention has been given to improving the system of domestic paraffin consumption to ensure that it can be used as safely and efficiently, if not more so, than other household like electricity or electrified petroleum gas.”, said Patrick Kulati, MD of the Paraffin Safety Association.

The Paraffin Safety Association is currently rolling out a signature campaign which will culminate in a declaration of household energy demands being presented to the parliamentary portfolio committees for minerals and energy as well as for health. They will be asked to pay urgent attention to demands and recommendations to address identified low income household energy needs.

“We call on all citizens to add their voice to the declaration of demands for overdue energy solutions for low income households (and others who wish to save electricity by using fuels like paraffin safely).”, Kulati said.

Those wishing to support the “Paraffin Consumer Rights” Campaign can do so by;

- Writing a letter of support to the Paraffin Safety Association (P O Box 2321, Clareinch, 7740)
- Email “support declaration” with your name to [declaration@paraffinsafety.org](mailto:declaration@paraffinsafety.org)
- Fax 021-671-0233 – fax template available on our website ([www.paraffinsafety.org](http://www.paraffinsafety.org))
- Going online at [www.paraffinsafety.org](http://www.paraffinsafety.org)
- Signing a petition at any of the “Paraffin Consumer Rights” petition tables

More information about paraffin consumer rights and the **Paraffin Users Household Energy Summits declaration** is available from our offices or on our website.

**ENDS.**

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Source: Department of Minerals and Energy monthly media statements. The last media statement was on 30 May 2008	Fuel Price (cents / litre)				% Increase Since....	
	May-06	Dec-07	May-08	Jun-08	May-06 to June-08	Dec-07 to June-08
<b>Petrol 95 ULP - Gauteng</b>	612	747	946	996	62.75%	33.33%
<b>Diesel - Gauteng</b>	571	724	1009	1080	89.16%	49.15%
<b>Paraffin Wholesale Price - Gauteng</b>	432	587	830	901	108.38%	53.40%
<b>Single Maximum National Retail Price</b>	562	769	1092	1186	111.03%	54.23%

### Safety Messages

- Do not leave your cooking or heating appliances unattended. If you leave the room or go to sleep, turn it off.
- Do not leave children, especially toddlers unattended near working stoves or heaters.
- Be sure to maintain your appliances properly
- Store paraffin in a dedicated, clearly labelled paraffin bottle, preferably with a child resistant closure and store out of reach of children
- Do not try to use appliances that are not working properly, especially if they are smoking or leaking – get them fixed or replaced.

More safety messages are available on our website.

