

Zambia hikes fuel prices

 By [Gregory Gondwe](#)

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Zambia's Energy Regulation Board (ERB) announced in a statement released in Lusaka last week that it has increased prices of all petroleum products.

ERB executive director, Sylvester Hibajene announced that the price of diesel had been increased by K953, petrol by K1,103 and kerosene by K641 per litre respectively.

"The upward adjustment had been necessitated by the high oil prices on the international market which has reached an all time high of US\$147.27/bbl on the New York mercantile exchange last month," said Hibajene.

"The [Zambian] Kwacha had registered depreciation against the US dollar trading at an exchange rate of K3,404 last month, in comparison to the June rate of K3,264," he added.

Hibajene said the increases are in line with the cost plus model which takes into account the cost of importing feedstock on cargo basis, among other things.

He said the adjustment is applicable to the current cargo, which docked in Dar-es-Salaam which enabled Indeni Petroleum Refinery to resume operations after it had shut down on 9 July, 2008 due to lack of feedstock.

Despite the hiking, *Times of Zambia* reported of an erratic supply of diesel that has hit Ndola in the last week forcing filling stations to give priority to account orders.

The paper further quotes Energy Permanent Secretary, Peter Mumba who, on Friday said the diesel situation would normalise the following day as the commodity was adequate to satisfy the consumers.

ABOUT GREGORY GONDWE

Gregory Gondwe is a Malawian journalist who started writing in 1993. He is also a media consultant assisting several international journalists pursuing assignments in Malawi. He holds a Diploma and an Intermediate Certificate in Journalism among other media-related certificates. He can be contacted on gregorygondwe@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@Kalipochi](#).

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