



Ministry of Commerce, Tourism & Labour  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **New Petroleum Prices for August - September 2015**

The Ministry of Commerce, Tourism & Labour wishes to advise that the Tonga Competent Authority (TCA) has approved the new petroleum prices for August - September 2015 to be effective from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

All petroleum consumers are notified that wholesale/retail prices for Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene will decrease for the month of August – September 2015. The retail price for Diesel leads the decrease by approximately 11.75 seniti/liter to a new price of 236.75 seniti/liter. Similar to the retail price for Kerosene it will decrease by 10.41 seniti/litre to a new price of 167.67 seniti per liter. The retail price for Petrol will also decrease by -8.9 seniti/litre to a new price of 253.29 seniti per liter. Please note that all changes include consumption tax.

The petroleum prices for August - September 2015 is mainly determined by the movement of FOB prices in the Singapore market based on July 2015 average prices of the daily published Means of Platt's Singapore (MOPS) benchmark prices.

Comparing the July month average prices with June, crude oil (Dated Brent) is down by USD 5.15/bbl (8.3%). All product prices fell more than crude as the refining margins reduced. Diesel recorded the highest drop of USD 9.66/bbl (12.9%), while petrol and kerosene prices fell by USD 8.50/bbl and USD 8.75/bbl respectively. The freight rate strengthened with improvement in the shipping market as a result of higher demand for products.

The Tongan Pa'anga has continued to depreciate, falling to a monthly average of US 45.75 cents. The reduced exchange rate and higher freight has partially offset some of the decrease in international prices for local consumers.

On the outlook, with Iranian supply expected to increase next year and no signs of other OPEC members reducing their production, many international companies are now predicting crude oil prices will be lower for a longer period. Demand for product, particularly petrol, remains strong, although not sufficient to increase prices.

For further information please contact the Ministry of Commerce, Tourism & Labour at telephone 23688.

**Ministry of Commerce, Tourism & Labour**  
**12<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**END**