

LUSAKA TIMES

Zambia ERB Holds Petrol Price, Cuts Diesel and Kerosene for June 2026

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Zambia's Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has completed its monthly fuel price review for June 2026, opting to hold the pump price of petrol steady at K27.15 per litre while delivering modest reductions across other key fuel categories. Diesel, the workhorse fuel for Zambia's transport and industrial sectors, has been cut from K33.99 to K32.11 per litre — a reduction of roughly 5.5 percent. Kerosene has similarly been trimmed from K35.05 to K33.91 per litre.

The review also addressed Jet A-1 aviation fuel, though the full details of that adjustment were not fully reproduced in the available summary. The ERB conducts these reviews on a monthly cycle, adjusting regulated pump prices in response to movements in international crude and refined product markets, exchange rate fluctuations, and domestic cost structures including distribution and taxation.

For Zambia, a landlocked country heavily dependent on road freight and imported refined products — primarily sourced through long supply corridors from Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa — fuel pricing has direct consequences for the cost of doing business across all sectors. Diesel price movements in particular feed through rapidly into logistics, mining operations, and agricultural supply chains, all of which are central to the Zambian economy.

The maintained petrol price alongside a diesel reduction suggests the ERB is responding to differential movements in refined product import costs, balancing consumer affordability against the fiscal and foreign exchange pressures Zambia has faced in recent years. Zambia completed an IMF-supported debt restructuring

process and has been working to stabilise its macroeconomic environment, making predictable energy pricing an important supporting element for investor confidence.

For companies operating or planning operations in Zambia, the direction of fuel pricing signals broader conditions around operational cost management and project economics. Reduced diesel costs offer marginal relief for any project relying on heavy equipment, camp logistics, or road-based supply chains — categories that are highly relevant to upstream energy and mining development activity in the country.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Zambia is not a major offshore hydrocarbons market, so direct subsea or FPSO opportunities are not present here. However, Norwegian service companies with downstream fuel infrastructure, logistics technology, or energy transition interests in landlocked Southern African markets should monitor ERB pricing trends as indicators of Zambian investment climate stability. Companies already active in Zambian mining or infrastructure services can use these price adjustments to refine operational cost models.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Drilling and well-service companies with Zambian land or rift-basin operations can factor the diesel reduction into revised rig mobilisation and logistics cost estimates.
- **Pipeline:** Companies tracking Southern Africa refined-product pipeline and import infrastructure opportunities should note ERB pricing trends as a proxy for demand-side economics and government appetite for supply chain investment.
- **LNG:** Norwegian LNG and gas-to-power specialists assessing Zambia's energy mix diversification should monitor fuel price regulation as a signal of how competitively domestic gas alternatives could be priced against liquid fuels.

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