

Successive generations always bemoan the increasing cost of living and recall with nostalgia the "good old days" of low costs when everything was affordable.

The personal attendant of the Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*), Anas ibn Maalik narrates, "The people said, 'O Messenger of Allah (*peace be upon him*), prices have shot up, so fix prices for us.' The Prophet (*peace be upon him*) replied, "Allah is the one Who fixes prices; Who withholds; Gives lavishly and Provides ..." (Abu Dawud)

In the system of "cause and effect" by the Almighty Allah, we see that goods and services increase in price through supply and demand, inflation and economic forces and so on.

Of course, there are the exceptions where new inventions or technological advances influence production and pricing, and occasionally there is the sincerity of purpose of a mission where one ploughs back as much as one can to provide the value of the "good old days".

We did a snap review of advertisements of ten years ago on a few commodities and contrasted them with today's pricing. We contrasted this with our fees charged from ten years ago to arrive at our conclusions which makes interesting reading.

| | 1998* | 2008** | % change |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 100g Cadbury's chocolate slab | R2.00 | R6.99 | +250 |
| Dozen eggs | R3.00 | R12.50 | +316 |
| 2Kg Tastic Rice | R6.00 | R14.99 | +150 |
| 750g Cornflakes | R8.00 | R24.99 | +212 |
| 750g Coffee | R10.00 | R29.99 | +200 |
| 1.5Kg Skip Washing Powder | R13.00 | R44.98 | +246 |
| 2 Litre Cola | R5.00 | R10.99 | +120 |
| 100 Glen Teabags | R4.00 | R10.99 | +175 |
| Frozen Chicken (kg) | R8.69 | R16.79 | +93 |
| Lamb A1 & A2 (kg) | R15.99 | R44.99 | +181 |
| Grapes (kg) | R3.99 | R8.66 | +117 |
| Tomatoes (kg) | R1.99 | R9.99 | +402 |
| Onions (Kg) | R1.59 | R6.99 | +340 |
| Potatoes (KG) | R1.59 | R 4.49 | +182 |
| 100 / Household Geyser | R709.00 | R2 350.00 | +231 |
| The Daily News | R1.80 | R3.40 | +89 |
| Average % change = 206.5% | | | |

*Obtained from advertisements of February 1998 from Independent Newspapers library, Greyville.

** Shoprite Checkers, Overport City – 1/02/08

Contrast the above with the comparison of fees charged by SANHA in the same period.

| Category | 1998 Structure | Fee 2008 Structure | Fee % change |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Butcheries | R200.00 | R 350.00 per month | 75 |
| Franchise Restaurants | R300.00 | R350.00 per month | 17 |
| Cafes / Take Aways | R100.00 | R250.00 per month | 150 |
| Beef Abattoir | R1.00 per carcass | R2.70 per Carcass | 175 |
| Sheep Abattoir | R0.50 per carcass | R1.50 per Carcass | 200 |
| Poultry Abattoir | .0025 cents per bird | .005 cents per bird | 100 |
| Average % change = 119.5% | | | |

Our fees are ploughed back into our services on Halaal to maintain the lowest licencing costs possible. We do not utilize the licencing fees for any other projects except for maintaining and developing Halaal regulatory services.

Just plain old fashioned service and value at a reasonable cost.

Your constructive comments, criticism and feedback is truly appreciated

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