

National inflation...

The month-on-month change of the NCPI was -0.5 percent in December 2018.

This was mainly due to the decrease in the prices of the items in the non-food category, where transport sub-category (petrol, diesel and bus fare) recorded the highest decrease.

Further, the prices of items in the communication and alcoholic beverages and tobacco sub-categories also reported decreases during the month.

At the same time, the prices of the items in the food category decreased, where vegetables, limes, big onions, banana and coconuts recorded prominent decreases.

The core inflation, which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, remained at 3.1 percent in December, on a year-on-year basis.

Meanwhile, the annual average core inflation also remained unchanged at 2.4 percent.