



February 2012

LPG: No longer a woman's "partner"

LPG is considered to be a woman's partner. This is because women, who are traditionally in charged of tending to the daily needs of the family, use LPG for preparing and cooking food. Thus, they are the ones who are the first and directly affected by the increase in the prices of LPG.

In the first two months of the year alone, LPG has increased its price twice. The first increase of P3.00 was announced on the first week of January while the second hike of P6.00 was announced on the first week of February, totalling to P9.00 per kilogram of LPG or P99.00 per 11-kg tank. With this, the price of LPG increased by 10-20% from P739.50 to P801.20 in 2011 to P788.00 to P935.60 in February this year (see Table 1).

Table 1. Average Price of Leading Brands of 11kg LPG tank , February 2011 and 2012 (in peso)

Brand	Shellane		% increase	Gasul		% increase
	2011	2012		2011	2012	
Metro Manila and LUZON	739.5*	848.50	14.74%	712.5*	788.00	10.60%
VISAYAS	769.14	923.25	20.03%	774.75	916.12	18.25%
MINDANAO	801.20	935.60	16.70%	766.66	899.50	17.33%

* December 2010 prices

Source: processed from DOE Oil Monitor

Major LPG brands in the Philippines are Gasul, Shellane, Fiesta Gas (formerly Caltex Gas), Petronas and Pryce. While there are some 22 brands available in the country, most of these are in Metro Manila and Luzon only, leaving the five named brands in Visayas and Mindanao. With fewer players in Visayas and Mindanao, price of LPG tanks tend to be higher than its price in Metro Manila. Looking at the price of Gasul and Shellane - the leading LPG brands in Visayas and Mindanao - it can be noticed that while the price range from P786.00 to P858.00 in Metro Manila, the price in Visayas and Mindanao range from P876.00 to P1,020.00. (See Table 2 and Graph 1)

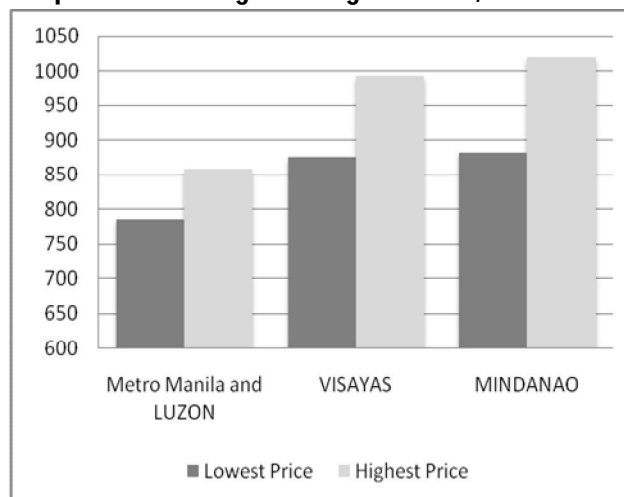
Table 2. Price Range of 11kg LPG* tank, February 2012 (in peso)

Area	Price Range
Metro Manila and LUZON	786.00 - 858.00
VISAYAS	876.00 - 993.00
MINDANAO	882.00 - 1,020.00

* major brands only = Shellane and Gasul

Source: DOE Oil Monitor

Graph 1. Price Range of 11kg LPG tank, Feb 2012



Source: DOE Oil Monitor

Increase in the price of LPG directly affects household budget. Based from NSO's Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the cost for the use of LPG increased by 26.89% from 2003 to 2006. It further increased by 16.89% in 2009.

With the incessant increase in the LPG price, a high number of households switched to other sources for cooking. Based from CWR survey in 2006, many of those who were using LPG switched to *uling* (charcoal) or *pangpatong* (wood) to save and to cope up with the rising prices of other commodities. Thus, for now, many women no longer consider LPG as their "partner." As they say, LPG is now only for the "rich."