

MEDIA RELEASE

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Commission appoints panel for the Grocery Retail Sector market inquiry

The Competition Commission has appointed Halton Cheadle, Lulama Mtanga and Lumkile Mondi, as chairman and panelists respectively, to lead the market inquiry into the Grocery Retail Sector in South Africa.

The three-member panel will preside over the market inquiry, oversee public hearings, review submissions, draft the inquiry report and produce its final recommendations. The panel will be supported by a team of investigators comprising of the Commission's economists and lawyers and expert consultants.

The purpose of the market inquiry is to examine whether there are features or a combination of features in the Grocery Retail Sector which prevents, distorts or restricts competition. In seeking to understand the general state of competition in the sector, the panel will probe six major areas:

- 1) The impact of the expansion, diversification and consolidation of national supermarket chains on small and independent retailers;
- 2) The impact of long term exclusive leases on competition in the sector;
- 3) The dynamics of competition between local and foreign owned small and independent retailers;
- 4) The impact of regulations, including inter alia municipal town planning and by-laws on small and independent retailers;
- 5) The impact of buyer groups on small and independent retailers; and
- 6) The impact of certain identified value chains on the operations of small and independent retailers.

The panel will issue administrative guidelines for the inquiry in due course. The administrative guidelines will set out the administrative timeline for the inquiry and will guide participants on the format and method for submitting information to the inquiry panel. The market inquiry will likely be completed by 29 May 2017.

Ends

Annexure A: bios of the panel

For more information:

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