



competition commission
south africa

Media Statement

For immediate release

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ANOTHER SPORTS AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO CARTEL CONDUCT

The Competition Commission welcomes the decision of the Competition Tribunal confirming as an order a consent agreement concluded with Bidvest Media (Pty) Ltd t/a MSC Sports (“MSC Sports”), a sports agency representing players and coaches mainly in the Premier Soccer League.

MSC SPORTS has agreed to pay a fine of R90 013.17 (Ninety Thousand and Thirteen Rand and Seventeen Cents) after it pleaded guilty to charges of fixing the price of commission fees and fixing trading conditions.

MSC SPORTS, the South African Football Intermediaries Association (SAFIA) and 35 other football intermediaries were referred to the Tribunal for prosecution in September last year. The Commission uncovered collusion among the total of 37 accused, who negotiate transfer fees and contracts for football players and coaches. The investigation revealed the following, among others:

- SAFIA and its members agreed to charge soccer players and coaches a standard 10% commission fee when negotiating transfer fees and contracts on their behalf;
- They charge football players a standard 20% commission fee when negotiating commercial contracts; and
- They use SAFIA as a platform for collusion.

In its settlement agreement with the Commission, MSC SPORTS has undertaken to cooperate fully in the prosecution of the other accused companies. This includes testifying before the Tribunal, providing evidence (written or otherwise) and agreeing to refrain from engaging in cartel conduct.

MSC SPORTS has also agreed to attend a competition law compliance training programme and to make the training materials available to all employees, managers, directors and agents annually, to ensure they comply with the Competition Act.

More football agents have approached the Commission for cooperation.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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