

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Commission blocks Van Schaik from acquiring Juta Bookshops

On 3 September 2013 the Competition Commission prohibited the acquisition of Juta Bookshops by Van Schaik. The Commission found that the proposed merger is likely to result in a substantial prevention or lessening of competition in the market for academic books.

This merger constituted a “small merger” in terms of the Competition Act. While small mergers are not subject to compulsory notification, the parties voluntarily notified the Commission of the transaction. Van Schaik forms part of the Times Media Group, whereas Juta Bookshops is a division of Juta & Company Ltd.

In terms of the proposed merger Van Schaik would obtain market power in the sale for academic books in the following universities: University of Stellenbosch, University of Cape Town, University of Johannesburg, Tshwane University of Technology Main and Arcadia Campus.

The Commission investigation included administering a questionnaire to students, the consumers of academic books, in five universities to understand the dynamics of the market and ascertain their views on the merger. The Commission concluded that the merger created a market structure susceptible to abuse and would be detrimental to students by reducing choice and resulting in higher prices for academic books.

## ENDS

### For more information:

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