

Media Release

3 April 2014

Competition Commission raids Unilever SA and Sime Darby offices

Today, the Competition Commission (the Commission) is conducting a search and seizure operation at the offices of Unilever South Africa (Pty) Ltd in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Sime Darby Hudson & Knight (Pty) Ltd in Boksburg, Johannesburg

The search and seizure operation forms part of the Commission's ongoing investigation into collusive conduct in the markets for the manufacture and supply of edible oils and margarine to wholesale and retail customers. The Commission has reasonable grounds to believe that information relevant to this investigation is in the possession of employees of the two companies.

The Commission is conducting the operation with due regard to the rights of both Unilever SA and Sime Darby and all the affected persons. During the search the Commission will seize documents and electronic data, which will be analysed together with other information gathered to determine whether a contravention of the Competition Act has taken place.

In terms of section 48 of the Competition Act, the Commission is authorised to enter and search premises and seize documents which have a bearing on an investigation. The Commission duly obtained warrants authorizing it to search the offices of Sime Darby and Unilever SA from the North Gauteng High Court and the Pietermaritzburg High Court respectively.

The Acting Commissioner, Tembinkosi Bonakele said, "The Commission believes that the information that will be obtained from today's operation will enable the Commission to determine whether or not Unilever SA and Sime Darby have indeed engaged in collusive conduct. However, as part of any investigation, we also wish to urge anyone, be it business or individuals with further information to come forward and assist the Commission in concluding this investigation."

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