



competition commission
south africa

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

06 May 2020

COMPETITION TRIBUNAL CONFIRMS R11 MILLION FOR INFLATING PRICES

The Competition Commission welcomes the decision of the Competition Tribunal to confirm as an order the R11 million consent agreement with a distributor of face masks and personal protection gear.

Last week the Commission referred the agreement to the Tribunal after it found the company had inflated the prices of face masks which are essential hygienic items.

In terms of the agreement, MATUS agreed to pay an administrative penalty of R5.9 million, further contribute R5 million to the Solidarity Fund of Covid 19, and will, with immediate effect, reduce its gross profit margin on dust masks to acceptable levels for the duration of the state of national disaster.

The company admitted to inflation of its gross profit margins with regards to the face masks.

The company will ensure that its gross profit margins for essential products will not be increased above what was applicable on 16 February 2020, for as long as such products remain as essential in terms of the Consumer Protection Regulations or any subsequent amendment or regulation.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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