

Media Release

12 August 2010

Competition Commission did not initiate discussions with SAB

It is reported in today's media that the Competition Commission approached South African Breweries (SAB) for possible settlement talks following the first day of the Tribunal hearing yesterday (Wednesday, 11 August 2010). This is not correct. It was in fact the legal representatives of SAB's appointed distributors that had brokered yesterday's discussions, and not the Commission as reported.

The Commission participated in yesterday's discussions to hear proposals from these parties on a possible settlement. As it turned out, the Commission did not accept the proposals. Therefore, the case will continue before the Tribunal as scheduled. This case deals with important legal and behavioural issues regarding a dominant firm.

In general, the Commission is amenable to settling cases with respondents provided the settlement address or cure the competition problem. Further, such settlements should achieve an outcome substantially similar a Tribunal ruling in the Commission's favour.

ENDS

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