



competition commission
south africa

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

15 July 2020

COMMISSION TO HOLD WEBINAR ON BUYER POWER ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES

On Friday 17 July 2020, the Competition Commission will hold a Webinar to discuss the guiding principles on how the new buyer power provisions will be enforced by the Competition Commission. The guidelines will serve as an essential point of reference for firms to assess risk, guide compliance and assist small businesses to enforce their rights in contract negotiations. Themed “**Buyer Power Enforcement Guidelines: How does it affect doing business?**” the webinar will kick-off at 11h30 and is expected to last for 2 hours.

This information sharing session is targeting participation of various but key stakeholders particularly from the small business sector. The Commission expects approximately 250 attendees as well as members of the media, all of whom will have an opportunity to engage the panel of experts during a scheduled Q&A session. The session will be moderated by the Commission’s Chief Economist, James Hodge who will be joined by Yongama Njisane (Principal Economist), Thembaletu Buthelezi (Principal Economist) and Jabulani Ngobeni (Principal Legal Counsel). The webinar is preceded by the publishing of the Commission’s final report on Buyer Power Enforcement Guidelines (attached) on 18 May 2020. In the main, the guidelines present the general principles that the Commission will follow in assessing whether the alleged conduct contravenes the Competition Act (89 of 1998) and delves into detail on each element required to establish a contravention against dominant buyers.

The new guidelines require dominant buyers to now ensure that their procurement practices do not entrench systemic discrimination or create further barriers to entry. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is heightened focus on the fair treatment of SME and HDP firms and the risk of complaints against dominant firms is amplified.

Members of the media will be given a link to the webinar upon confirming attendance.

RSVP to Ms. Lydia Molefe @ LydiaM@compcom.co.za on or before 15h00 on Thursday 16 July 2020.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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