



competition commission
south africa

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

01 September 2021

COMMISSION TO HOLD A PRICE GOUGING WEBINAR DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

On 10 September 2021 at 10h00, the Competition Commission of South Africa (Commission) will hold a webinar on '*Price Gouging during the COVID 19 Pandemic*'. The webinar will reflect on the impact of the Commission's efforts and findings during the state of the pandemic while raising awareness on the role of the Commission and the application of the amended Competition Act 89 of 1998. The Commission will also use the webinar to identify competition issues, raise awareness and educate all stakeholders on the lessons learned from price gouging cases, for future interventions.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had an adverse effect on the lives of the country's citizens and the world alike. After the announcement of the national lockdown in March 2020, South Africa saw unprecedented spikes in demand for hygiene and healthcare products, needed to prevent the spread of the virus. Consumers also started panic-buying and stockpiling essential foodstuffs. This provided conditions for price gouging by suppliers and retailers of these products.

The Commission responded to price gouging in the first and second wave to protect consumers and customers from unconscionable, unfair, unreasonable, unjust or improper commercial practices during the national state of disaster. Through advocacy initiatives, the Commission also responded to astronomical price gouging allegations.

Members of the media as well as community representatives from both public and private sectors are invited to participate in the Webinar.

Media wishing to attend the Webinar must register on <https://tinyurl.com/37kakpwh> on or before 8 September 2021.

For Webinar questions: Mr Siphon Mtombeni on Siphom@compcom.co.za.

For media interview requests: Ms Lydia Molefe on LydiaM@compcom.co.za

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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