



**competition commission**  
*south africa*

**Media Advisory**

**For Immediate Release**

**11 December 2021**

**URGENT MEDIA BRIEFING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GROUND-BREAKING  
AGREEMENT ON PCR TEST PRICES**

The Competition Commission has reached a ground-breaking agreement with two major laboratories, Du Buisson Kramer Swart Bouwer Incorporated (Ampath), Drs Mauff AC & Partners t/a Lancet Laboratories (Lancet Laboratories), on the substantial reduction of COVID-19 PCR test prices.

On 8 October 2021, the Competition Commission received a formal complaint from the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) against private pathology laboratories alleging that the price for supplying PCR tests for COVID-19 is unfairly inflated, exorbitant and/or unjustifiable. Between September and October 2021, the Commission was alerted through a number of meetings and telephonic discussions (including discussions with the Department of Health and healthcare funders) of a possible pricing abuse for COVID-19 PCR tests, to the detriment of vulnerable consumers and customers. In the main, it was alleged that private pathology laboratories have experienced substantial cost reductions in conducting COVID-19 PCR tests and were processing significant volumes (especially during infection waves), yet the price charged by the private pathology laboratories for COVID-19 PCR tests remained persistently high and unchanged at R850.

The Competition Commissioner, Mr. Tembinkosi Bonakele, would make the official announcement at an URGENT MEDIA BRIEFING session scheduled as follows:

**DATE: Sunday, 12 December 2021**

**TIME: 11h00**

**FORMAT: Virtual (Zoom)**

<https://gcis.zoom.us/j/97339512207?pwd=RzdTdGdOTkd3SXExeDN1eEIJZ01FZz09>

**Webinar ID:** 973 3951 2207

**Passcode:** 082747

**Members of the media are cordially invited to attend the briefing.** RSVP:

[media@compcom.co.za](mailto:media@compcom.co.za) or join via the zoom link:

**[ENDS]**

**Issued by:**

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