



**competition commission**  
south africa

**Media Advisory**

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**17th ANNUAL COMPETITION CONFERENCE TO TACKLE NHI, FOOD PRICES, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND DECONCENTRATION**

On Thursday, 28 September, Johannesburg North will be abuzz with activity as the 17th Annual Competition Law, Economics, and Policy Conference kicks off. The conference brings together global competition law experts, economists, thought leaders, academics, and industry stakeholders to delve into critical issues around competition regulation, enforcement, transformation, and the development of appropriate legal standards within the field.

This two-day conference, hosted by the Competition Commission in conjunction with the Competition Tribunal, will feature distinguished speakers and delegates who will share insights on the current state of competitive markets and the path toward fostering an inclusive, growing, and deconcentrated economy. The conference will take place at the Canvas Riversands Conference Centre in Fourways, Johannesburg, with the overarching theme being ***'Towards Competitive Markets, Transformation, and Deconcentration'***.

Over the course of the much-anticipated conference, participants will engage in six salient panel discussions covering a wide array of topics. These discussions will include an exploration of the impact of various factors, such as 'greedflation,' on food inflation and how competition enforcement can proactively address such issues. Additionally, conference attendees will deliberate on challenges in merger control, including serial acquisitions and public interest provisions, and competition authorities' role in promoting deconcentration. Pertinent local issues, such as competition enforcement in the National Health Insurance (NHI) transition and the development of a more competitive and resilient energy market, will undoubtedly spark interesting discussions. Furthermore, there will be a dedicated panel discussion on how recent amendments to the Competition Act and various court rulings have shaped legal standards in competition law and their implications for the future.

The keynote address will be delivered by Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition, Ebrahim Patel, while Commissioner Doris Tshepe will provide the official welcome and opening address.

The conference has attracted a lineup of seasoned speakers from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, both domestically and internationally, including notable figures such as Molly Askin from the U.S. Federal

Trade Commission, Tony Ehrenreich from trade union COSATU, Alexey Ivanov from the BRICS Competition Law Centre, Wandile Sihlobo from Agbiz, Lisa D. DeMarchi Sleigh from the Bureau of Competition at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Mark Niefer from the U.S. Department of Justice, Prof Nicholas Crisp from the National Department of Health, Fatima Hassan from Health Justice Initiative, and distinguished litigant and Constitutional Law expert Tembeka Ngcukaitobi SC from the Duma Nokwe Group of Advocates.

In addition to the crucial discussions, the conference will offer valuable networking opportunities to industry role players and policymakers. Fellow attendees can connect, exchange ideas, and foster collaboration toward the acceleration of an inclusive and deconcentrated economy.

The conference program can be accessed [here](#) for reference.

**[ENDS]**

**Issued by:**

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