



Stakeholder Notice

For Immediate Release

16 October 2023

THE FRESH PRODUCE MARKET INQUIRY EMBARKS ON FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Fresh Produce Market Inquiry (FPMI) will hold its first round of public hearings from 18 – 27 October 2023 at the DTI Campus in Pretoria.

The FPMI, initiated in terms of section 43B(1)(a), read with section 43A, of the Competition Act 89 of 1999 (the Act), is considering if adverse effects are present in the fresh produce value chain arising from any feature or combination of features that impedes, restricts or distorts competition.

In terms of section 43B of the Act, the Commission may conduct a market inquiry in any manner but for greater certainty the following processes may apply as required by the circumstances. The FPMI's Terms of Reference further provides that public hearings will take place in accordance with the principles of natural justice and may be conducted informally or in an inquisitorial manner.

The public hearings will be facilitated by evidence leaders and chaired by the Chairperson of the FPMI, Mr. Hardin Rathsisusu, and assisted by the FPMI's Technical Director, Mr. Ruan Maré.

The first round of public hearings will form part of the FPMI's information and evidence gathering processes. To date the FPMI has gathered extensive information from a wide range of stakeholders across the value chain and held workshops with SME and HDP farmers across various parts of the country. The public hearings will present another opportunity for stakeholders to present their views on the challenges and potential solutions which impact the South African fresh produce value chain.

For the first round of public hearings 39 potential stakeholders were invited, based on their written submissions to the FPMI and the opportunity presented by their submission to explore certain critical topics. Of these, the FPMI will call on 15 stakeholders to each partake in a dedicated session with the FPMI. A second set of public hearings may be arranged in due course.

The programme of the public hearings is attached hereto and will also be published on the FPMI's website. The times indicated in the programme are indicative only and may be adjusted according to the demands of the particular day. Stakeholders and members of the public who attend the hearings are kindly requested to kindly allow for some flexibility on the timing of each session.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

Ruan Maré

On behalf of the Fresh Produce Market Inquiry

Tel: 012 010 5499

Email: RuanM@compcom.co.za

Find us on the following social media platforms:

Twitter: @CompComSA

Instagram: Competition Commission SA

Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube: The Competition Commission South Africa