

NaCC to study retail, automotive, manufacturing sectors

• STAFF REPORTER

THE Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) says it plans to carry out research into the retail, automotive, franchising and manufacturing sectors to understand how these sectors operate.

Mihe Gaomab, the CEO and secretary of the Commission says that as a result of many South African retail giants operating in Namibia, the Commission had decided to conduct a research on the issues and challenges facing that sector and how it relates to the overall Namibian economy.

"The Commission is to have a stakeholder workshop to discuss the retail sector study in order to seek solutions to the challenges afflicting the sector," said Gaomab.

He noted that the competition law also caters for small businesses like SMEs should they be subjected to unfair competition by large firms in Namibia.

In terms of its price mandate, the Commission is putting in place price monitoring

mechanisms to understand the retailers pricing strategies and also to understand the pricing trends of sensitive but economically protected sectors such as cement, diary products, meat and poultry, he said.

"There is still a dearth of understanding of the competition policy and law in Namibia and the work of the NaCC does not appear to be well-known among the public, but this will change," he said.

The NaCC opened its doors in December 2009, six years after the Competition Act was passed in 2003. Its main duties are to safeguard and promote fair competition across all sectors of Namibia's economy, having regulatory oversight of over 80 000 business entities.

Namibia is the second country to implement the competition law after South Africa in Southern African Customs Union and is the sixth country to do so in the Southern African Development Community region after South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Mihe Gaomab II