



MEDIA STATEMENT

CAUTIONARY NOTICE AGAINST THE PROPOSED COLLUSIVE PRICE INCREASES BY TAXI OPERATORS AND AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

1. The Namibian Competition Commission (“the Commission”) notes that proposals have been made by certain taxi operators and their associations to collusively increase taxi fares in the absence of endorsement from the Transportation Board as prescribed by the Road Transport Act, 74 of 1977 (“the Road Transport Act”).
2. The Competition Act, Act 2 of 2003 (“the Competition Act”) prohibits competing undertakings such as taxi operators from jointly colluding on prices charged to consumers unless such conduct is authorised in terms of other relevant laws such as the Road Transport Act. It was on this basis that the Commission last year resolved not to proceed against Bus and Taxi Associations for price fixing conduct as such conduct was authorized by the Road Transport Act.
3. However, taxi operators who collusively and intentionally impose fixed taxi fare increases without following the due process set out in the Road Transport Act will render themselves liable in terms of the Competition Act and thereby attract a formal investigation which may lead to punitive civil and/or criminal sanctions.
4. The Commission accordingly urges taxi operators to desist from any price increases in the absence of endorsement by the Transportation Board as such conduct would amount to prohibited price fixing in terms of the Competition Act.

Issued by:

Namibian Competition Commission

1st August 2018