



GOVERNORS' REMARKS

SIGNING OF MOU

Event: Signing of MoU between CBE and Eswatini Competition Commission

Date: 2nd December 2020

SALUTATIONS

- Director of proceedings
- Eswatini Competition Commission CEO
- CBE Deputy Governor
- CBE Assistant Governor
- Legal teams from CBE and Eswatini Competition Commission
- Media houses represented
- Ladies and gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

- Welcome to the CBE
- We appreciate your coming here, in the midst of COVID-19 challenges and I hope we will continue to fully observe the regulations set out to protect all of us from the pandemic. Our prayers are with all those affected by it, and in a special way we wish our Prime Minister a speedy recovery.
- We are gathered here to witness a historic event, the signing of a memorandum of understanding between our two institutions
- Our main objective is to co-ordinate and harmonize the exercise of our jurisdiction over matters of mutual interest and in particular on issues touching on anti-competitive trade practices within the banking and payments sector.
- Both regulators support and advocate for competition in our industry. We support competition because we know that it encourages innovation and supply of better products.
- Competition encourages or pushes businesses to be more efficient so that consumers benefit from lower prices.
- Competition pushes industry to be more sensitive to the needs of the consumers.
- When you have competition in an industry the ultimate winner will always be the customers.
- While looking out for competition we also are alive to possibilities of unhealthy competition. Sometimes you need to look closely to see if competition does not stifle national objectives, such as financial inclusion, etc.

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- Notwithstanding all of this, we should not compromise standards for the sake of getting numbers, in the name of competition, even if that puts the industry and country at risk.

PURPOSE

- As regulators of key economic activity in the country, we have identified a need for better co-operation with each other as we both pursue our different mandates
- This MoU will provide a framework that will facilitate co-ordination on competition issues within the banking and payments sector.
- It will also assist us in the provision of technical opinions in the drafting or review of regulatory instruments that may have an impact on competition issues within the banking and payments space
- Further, the MoU will assist us to recognize our respective roles in facilitating a coordinated approach (while respecting each other's mandate) to avoid regulatory overlaps and arbitrage in dealing with complaints related to anti-competitive behavior within the banking sector, and applications for mergers and acquisitions
- We can assure you all that while close co-operations remains important, we are both still conscious of the need for the protection of the confidential information, which our MoU will observe and respect.

Let us, at all times, uphold and be guided by integrity principles in the execution of our tasks and managing this MOU. That should always be the guide to every person tasked with holding senior positions in public offices.

CONCLUSION

- Once again, I thank all of you for your attendance today
- We look forward to a good working relationship between us and the exchange of useful information. On behalf of the Bank staff, Mr. CEO I wish you success in the execution of your assignment in your office.
- I thank you and may God bless you!