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<p>The Competition Commission releases the Digital Market Landscape Report: A review of market conditions in selected digital platforms</p>		

The Competition Commission has today released its report of the Digital Market Landscape study (Digital Market Study). The study was conducted in pursuance to Section 30(h) of the Competition Act 2007 (the Act) which empowers the Executive Director of the Competition Commission (the Executive Director) to assess the effectiveness of competition in individual sectors of the economy.

The Executive Director prioritised the Digital Market Study given the growing importance of the digital economy and the benefits that it brings to consumers, businesses and the economy at large. Amongst, consumers can benefit from the convenience of shopping online, potentially lower transaction costs, and increased choice. On their part, businesses can leverage on digital platforms to increase their customer base. While digital technologies bring clear benefits, they can also affect how markets work and hence how competitive they are likely to be. It is therefore important to understand the distinguishing features of digital markets and assess whether these markets are likely to raise specific competitive concerns and how such issues might be addressed.

The Executive Director therefore initiated the Digital Market Study to better gauge the competition intricacies around digital markets and to gain a high-level understanding of the state of play and potential competition issues in the local digital market landscape. The study covered the various types of transactional and non-transactional digital platforms, including e-commerce, hotel booking, ticketing, taxi-hailing, and mobile payments, among others.

The study concluded that Mauritius overall has a strong digital foundation with adequate ICT infrastructure and reliable internet connectivity. The ICT sector is supported by conducive policies and there are ongoing legislative reforms to modernise the legal framework, enhance trust and security, and foster broader digital adoption through adaptive and forward-looking regulation.

The review of the state of competition has indicated that local online platforms such as those for e-commerce, food delivery and taxi hailing are still at nascent stage. The competition issues identified in other jurisdictions may not necessarily be relevant for the time being. Other online platforms, including digital payments, hotel and ticket bookings have reached greater level of market maturity. Ensuring regulatory certainty and interoperability within those markets is of increasing importance. Regulatory reforms may be warranted in markets such as taxi hailing.

To access the full report of the Digital Market Landscape study, please click [here](#).

Statement of the Executive Director

Mr. Vipin Naugah, Executive Director of the Competition Commission, stated:

“Digital platforms have revolutionized the way markets operate, creating great opportunities for society. Digital platforms help boost communication and connectivity around the world so that businesses can reach a wider consumer base, and for consumers to enjoy a broader choice of products and compare this broader set of offers from the comfort of their homes.

For a small economy like Mauritius, digital markets can be instrumental in breaking geographical barriers and providing global access to local businesses. Online platforms can facilitate the entry of new players, particularly SMEs, by providing them with a marketplace without necessarily having to invest in a physical retail outlet. This could contribute to incentivising competition in the market, where new players can challenge existing enterprises with entrenched market power by offering innovative products.

For the development of digital markets, it is imperative to have adequate ICT infrastructure and technology to offer reliable and affordable internet connection. The regulatory environment should also be conducive to creating trust and protecting users against fraud and other cybercrimes. Digital markets often have distinct characteristics such as multi-sidedness, network effects, zero-pricing and data reliance which can lead to market tipping, where one operator captures a substantial share of the market. This can lead to entry and innovation foreclosure and could thus harm market competition. There is thus the need to ensure interoperability within the digital ecosystem to facilitate the entry of new players and have safeguards against abuse by dominant platforms.

The study conducted by the Competition Commission provides a general assessment of the state of competition in the local digital market landscape. It also reviews the distinct characteristics of online platforms and the experience in other jurisdictions regarding competition cases in this field. The report can serve as a useful tool to support effective and timely responses for potential competition issues in the local market. The findings of the study will guide the Competition Commission in its future research, advocacy, and enforcement actions. The assessment in the report can also provide a basis for engagement with sector regulators regarding potential regulatory reforms.”

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