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	MEDIA RELEASE	Ref Date
The Competition Commission launches its first Market Inquiry into the supply of Private Healthcare Services		

The Executive Director of the Competition Commission (‘the Executive Director’) has launched a market inquiry into the supply of private healthcare services in Mauritius. This is the first market inquiry initiated by the Executive Director under the Section 51B of the Competition Act 2007.

The Executive Director has reasonable grounds for suspecting that certain features of the private healthcare market may not be conducive to effective competition. In particular, the concerns are that:

- high levels of concentration across the private healthcare supply chain and imbalances in bargaining power amongst operators could be affecting costs of treatment.
- lack of transparency and information asymmetry on pricing of medical procedures and success rates could be affecting customer choice.
- financial incentives to doctors could be steering referrals and leading to over treatment.
- preferred-provider networks by medical insurance providers could potentially be foreclosing customer access to smaller clinics.

The market inquiry is therefore intended to assess the market structure, pricing behaviour and arrangements amongst the various operators in relation to the supply of private healthcare services and their impact on competition. Amongst others, the inquiry will look into concentration levels, referral practices, preferred-provider networks, and transparency on prices and service levels. The objective is to identify any impediments to competition and to come up with policy recommendations and/or enforcement actions.

In accordance with the Competition Commission’s Guidelines on Market inquiries (CC8), the Executive Director has issued the Notice of Initiation for Private Healthcare Market Inquiry. The Notice, available [here](#) and on the Competition Commission’s website, provides more information on the scope and process of the market inquiry.

Stakeholders are invited to consult the Notice of Initiation and submit their views, queries and relevant information on the market inquiry to the Executive Director by **30 June 2026**.

Statement of the Executive Director

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

“The demand for private healthcare has increased considerably over the last decade with current annual expenditure estimated at around Rs 19 billion. The bulk of the spending comes directly from the pockets of households and to a lesser extent from health insurance.

There are several reasons that explain the increasing demand for private healthcare, including near-immediate access to specialised and high-tech treatments, and personalised care. The private healthcare sector in Mauritius is expanding, and operators are investing heavily on infrastructure and advanced medical technologies. But at the same time, we observe significant increase in the costs of medical care coupled with transparency issues around price and performance of private clinics. There are some issues related to the arrangements between operators that may not be conducive to competition and the interest of customers.

I have launched the private healthcare market inquiry to understand the functioning of this market and assess whether certain features could be harmful to competition. The new powers entrusted upon the Executive Director through the inclusion of Section 51B to the Competition Act provides a framework for assessing broader competition issues. The findings of this inquiry will help inform policy or enforcement recommendations aimed at improving competition and transparency in healthcare sector. I encourage stakeholders to come forward to submit their views and relevant information for the effective conduct of the market inquiry”

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