



Competition Commission of Mauritius  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, GM Tower  
7 Maupin Street  
Port Louis  
Tel. No. 211-2005  
Fax No. 211-3107  
email: [info@ccm.mu](mailto:info@ccm.mu)

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Ref:** CCM/MS001

## THE COMPETITION COMMISSION HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

The Commissioners of the Competition Commission today issued recommendations to the government for ensuring a successful liberalisation of the cement industry. The Commissioners felicitated the government on its major reform to promote liberalisation in the cement sector, liberalisation, that commenced today, July 1. They expressed concern that risks exist of insufficient competition in the cement market until new suppliers are operational. Insufficient competition could in turn result in higher prices after December 2011 when no prices are fixed. In the interim, the Commissioners recommended that government ensure that there is adequate space available at the port for importers, because the liberalisation of the issuance of import permits will not have much effect if there is nowhere for importers to store their merchandise.

Reshad Sadool, the lead Commissioner for these recommendations, stated, "Today a major step has been taken with the cement market liberalised for the first time in more than two decades. We must make sure that the liberalisation is a step forwards, not backwards, by ensuring that appropriate detailed policies are put into place to ensure competing importers can successfully operate while ensuring oversight of quality of cement remains."

The Commissioners based their recommendations on the Cement Market Study Hearing held on 24 June 2011 by the Competition Commission, as well as the report of the Executive Director that was completed on 7 April 2011.

## **Background for editors:**

### ***The Competition Act:***

The Competition Act 2007 came fully into effect on November 25th 2009, and is enforced by the Competition Commission of Mauritius, the CCM.

The CCM has various statutory powers and the Executive Director may inter alia, conduct investigations in case he finds reasonable grounds that anti-competitive conducts such as: collusion, abuse of monopoly power etc. are occurring. The Director may also conduct market studies on different markets of the Mauritian economy. The Market Study on Cement is the first market study conducted by the CCM.

### ***Market Study:***

Section 30 of the Competition Act 2007 gives a list of the **Functions and Powers of the Executive Director** which allows the Executive Director to “undertake general studies on the effectiveness of competition in individual sectors of the economy in Mauritius”.

The report is available on the CCM’s website:

<http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/ccm/pdf/Cement%20Market%20Study%20Report-Public%20Version.pdf.pdf>

### ***Advice to the Minister:***

Section 19 of the Competition Act provides that the Commission can give advice to the Minister “on any action taken or proposed to be taken by the State or any public body that may adversely affect competition in the supply of goods and services”.

### ***Further information:***

For further information see the CCM’s website at [www.ccm.mu](http://www.ccm.mu) or contact the Commission on phone: 211-2005 or by email: [info@ccm.mu](mailto:info@ccm.mu)