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	<p><b>MEDIA RELEASE</b></p>	<p><b>Ref</b></p>
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<p><b>The Competition Commission launches a Market Study into the Poultry sector in Mauritius</b></p>		

The Executive Director of the Competition Commission has today launched a market study into the poultry sector, thereafter, referenced MS012 - Poultry Market Study (PMS). The study is undertaken pursuant to Section 30(a) and (h) of the Competition Act 2007, (the Act), which mandates the Executive Director to review conditions of competition in markets and undertake general studies on the effectiveness of competition in individual sectors of the economy in Mauritius.

The poultry industry is a major contributor to local livestock production and provider of protein for the population through the supply of chicken meat and eggs. The industry is a complex one, with a few large vertically integrated companies having a significant share of the market. The concentrated nature of the local poultry industry in itself does not raise any competition issues. In many countries, the poultry industry is dominated by a few large firms. Moreover, there are several barriers to entry ranging from high costs of compliance with sanitary norms to the availability of land for industrial farms and access to key inputs such as stock of grandparent and parent chicks.

Recently, prices of chicken and eggs have increased significantly, as have the prices for several other essential consumer goods. These increases may be driven by several factors, including higher input, labour and energy costs. But at the same time, the potential existence and exercise of market power cannot be discarded. Moreover, many small operators in the industry rely on the few larger industrial poultry producers. Thus, it is imperative to ensure that conditions of competition are conducive for all operators to compete on a level playing field.

The Executive Director has initiated the PMS to better understand the competition dynamics across the poultry supply chain which involves the farming, production and supply of chicken meat and eggs. It will assess the market structure, regulatory framework and conduct of operators, including pricing and the commercial relationship between large poultry operators and contract growers.

In this regard, the Executive Director has published the Terms of Reference for the PMS, available on the Competition Commission’s website, which provides more information on the scope and process of the market study. The document can be accessed at this [link](#).

The market study is intended to inform potential policy recommendations and/or enforcement actions. It is to be highlighted that the launch of a market study does not indicate findings of anti-competitive conduct by any operator.

## Statement of the Executive Director

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

*“The poultry sector is strategically significant for the Mauritian economy. Chicken remains the most consumed meat in the country as well as a principal source of protein for consumers. Its relative affordability to other meats clearly positions it as an important essential commodity to consumers. This is especially noteworthy when increases in food prices directly impact household budgets.*

*The sector has certain characteristics that naturally influence its market structure. Poultry production requires substantial investment, needs to be compliant with sanitary requirements and to have access to suitable farming land. Additionally, restrictions on imports imply that local production is central to meeting local demand.*

*Given the importance of the sector, it is necessary to ensure that market conditions support effective competition. The market study will enable the Competition Commission to determine any constraints impeding on competition and propose recommendations to improve the competitive landscape of the poultry sector.*

*Enhanced competition in the poultry sector will benefit consumers in terms of better prices and choices. It will also help local producers, especially the smaller operators by creating a level playing field, while contributing to a sustainable poultry sector in the economy.”*

-----End of media release-----