



**COMPETITION TRIBUNAL**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Case No: CO069Jul15

In the matter between:

The Competition Commission

**Applicant**

And

H & M Removals CC

**Respondent**

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Panel : M Mazwai (Presiding Member)  
A Roskam (Tribunal Member)  
A Ndoni (Tribunal Member)

Heard on : 16 September 2015

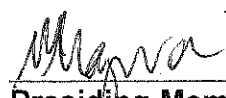
Decided on : 16 September 2015

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**Consent Agreement**

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The Tribunal hereby confirms the consent agreement as agreed to and proposed by the Competition Commission and H & M Removals CC annexed hereto marked "A".

  
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Presiding Member  
Ms M Mazwai

16 September 2015  
Date

Concurring: Mr A Roskam and Ms A Ndoni

**IN THE COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF SOUTH AFRICA  
(HELD IN PRETORIA)**

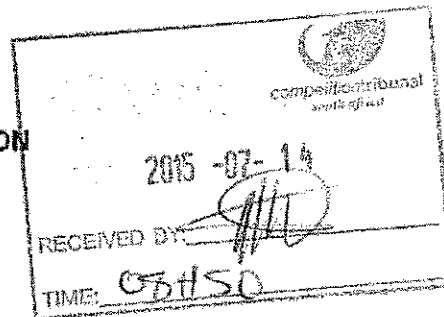
**CT Case No.**

**CC Case No: 2011Jun0069**

In the matter between

**THE COMPETITION COMMISSION**  
and

**H & M REMOVALS CC**



**Applicant**

**Respondent**

**CONSENT AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF SECTION 49D AS READ WITH SECTIONS 58(1)(a)(iii) and 58(1) (b) OF THE COMPETITION ACT, NO. 89 OF 1998, AS AMENDED, BETWEEN THE COMPETITION COMMISSION AND H&M REMOVALS CC, IN RESPECT OF CONTRAVENTIONS OF SECTION 4(1)(b) (iii) OF THE COMPETITION ACT, NO 89 OF 1998**

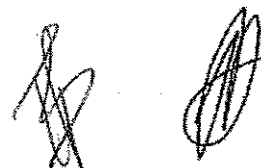
**Preamble**

The Competition Commission and H&M Removals CC hereby agree that application be made to the Competition Tribunal for the confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order of the Tribunal in terms of section 49D read with section 58(1)(a)(iii) and 58(1)(b) of the Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998 as amended (the Act), in respect of contraventions of section 4(1)(b) (iii) of the Act, on the terms set out below.

## 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Consent Agreement the following definitions shall apply:

- 1.1 "Act" means the Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998, as amended;
- 1.2 "Commission" means the Competition Commission of South Africa, a statutory body established in terms of section 19 of the Act, with its principal place of business at Mulayo Building (Block C), the DTI Campus, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, Gauteng;
- 1.3 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Competition Commission, appointed in terms of section 22 of the Act;
- 1.4 "Complaint" means the complaint initiated by the Commissioner in terms of section 49B(1) of the Act under case numbers 2010Nov5447 and 2011Jun0069;
- 1.5 "Consent Agreement" means this agreement duly signed and concluded between the Commission and H&M Removals CC;
- 1.6 "Cover Price" means generally, a price that is provided by a firm that wishes to win a tender to a firm that does not wish to do so, in order that the firm that does not wish to win the tender may submit a higher price; or

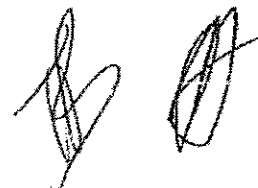
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alternatively a price that is provided by a firm that does not wish to win a tender to a firm that does wish to win that tender in order that the firm that wishes to win the tender may submit a lower price;

- 1.7 "H&M Removals CC" means H&M Removals, a close corporation incorporated under the laws of the Republic of South Africa with its principal place of business situated at Madrid Road, Airport Industria, Cape Town, Western Cape Province; and
- 1.8 "Tribunal" means the Competition Tribunal of South Africa, a statutory body established in terms of section 26 of the Act, with its principal place of business at Mulayo building (Block C), the DTI Campus, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, Gauteng.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION AND FINDINGS

- 2.1 On 3 November 2010, the Commission initiated a complaint in terms of section 49(B)(1) of the Act into alleged prohibited practices relating to collusive tendering in the market for the provision of furniture removal services in South Africa against J.H Retief Transport CC, Patrick Removals (Pty) Ltd, Cape Express Removals (Pty) Ltd, Sifikile Transport CC, Gloway Transport CC, De Wet Human CC t/a Viking Furniture, Stuttaford Van Lines (Pty) Ltd and Pro-Pack Removals CC.
- 2.2 On 1 June 2011, the Commission amended its complaint to include other furniture removal firms as respondents in the complaint on the basis of further information obtained in the course of the investigation of the



complaint. These furniture removal firms are A&B Movers CC; Advance Transport (Pty) Ltd; African Palletized Storage; Afriworld Furniture Removals CC; Core Relocations (Pty) Ltd; Crown Relocations (Pty) Ltd; De Lange Transport (Pty) Ltd; Elliot International CC; Execu-Move CC; Joel Transport (Pty) Ltd; Langs Furniture Removals; Lowe Lines CC; Majorshelf; Matthee Removals; North Western Transport CC; Pickfords Removals (Pty) Ltd; Pulse International Removals; Stanley's Removals CC; Transfreight International CC; Western Transport Services; JNK Transport Services; Trapezium Removals; Elite International; City to City Transport; Wiets Removals; H&M Removals; AGS Frasers International (Pty) Ltd; and all then present members of the Professional Movers Association.

2.3

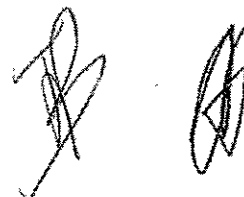
On 13 June 2013, the Commission further amended its complaint to include other furniture removal firms as respondents in the complaint on the basis of further information obtained in the course of the investigation of the complaint. These firms are Easy Moves CC; Reliable Removals CC; Deon Nel Sole Proprietorship t/a AD Transport; Bear Transport (Pty) Ltd; J&H Removals (Pty) Ltd; Mini Maxi Movers CC; Baxter International Movers CC; Louis du Preez Sole Proprietorship t/a Removals 4 Less; A to Z Relocation Services t/a The Moving Company; and AKA Loading & Transport CC.

2.4

The firms listed in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above shall hereinafter be referred to as the Respondents.

2.5

The Commission's investigation revealed the following:



- 2.5.1 During or about the period 2007 to at least December 2012, the firms identified in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above, being competitors in the market for the provision of furniture removal services agreed to tender collusively in relation to the provision of furniture removal services.
- 2.5.2 In terms of the agreement, a firm that was contacted first regarding a request for quotation for furniture removal services would offer to source two or more quotations on behalf of the customer, and would then contact two or more of its competitors and request the competitors to submit cover prices.
- 2.5.3 The cover prices would either be sent directly to the customer or to the competitor wishing to win the tender for onward submission to the customer.
- 2.5.4 H&M Removals colluded with Cape Express Removals (Pty) Ltd and Pro Pack Removals CC on tenders issued by the South African National Defence Force.
- 2.5.5 The Commission further found that, pursuant to the arrangement set out above, H&M Removals engaged in approximately 9 instances of cover pricing.
- 2.5.6 This conduct constitutes collusive tendering in contravention of section 4(1)(b) (iii) of the Act.

### 3. ADMISSION

H&M Removals admits that it engaged in approximately 9 instances of cover pricing in contravention of section 4(1)(b) (iii) of the Act.

### 4. CO-OPERATION

H&M Removals agrees to fully cooperate with the Commission in its investigation and prosecution of the remaining respondents in the complaint. This cooperation includes, but is not limited to:

4.1. To the extent that it is in existence, the provision of evidence, written or otherwise, which is in its possession or under its control, concerning the alleged contraventions contained in this Consent Agreement.

4.2. Testifying in the complaint referral (if any) in respect of the contraventions set out in this Consent Agreement.

### 5. FUTURE CONDUCT

H&M Removals agrees to:

5.1. prepare and circulate a statement summarising the contents of this Consent Agreement to its employees, managers and directors within

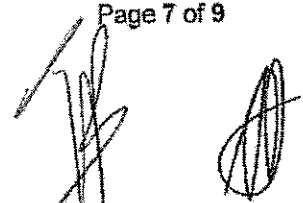
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fourteen (14) days of the date of confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order of the Tribunal;

- 5.2. refrain from engaging in conduct in contravention of the Act in future;
- 5.3. develop, implement and monitor a competition law compliance programme as part of its corporate governance policy, which is designed to ensure that its employees, management, directors and agents do not engage in future contraventions of the Act. In particular, such compliance programme should include mechanisms for the identification, prevention, detection and monitoring of any contravention of the Act;
- 5.4. submit a copy of such compliance programme to the Commission within sixty (60) days of the date of confirmation of the Consent Agreement as an order by the Tribunal; and
- 5.5. undertakes henceforth to engage in competitive bidding.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY**

- 6.1. Having regard to the provisions of sections 58(1)(a)(iii) as read with sections 59(1)(a), 59(2) and 59(3) of the Act, H&M Removals is liable to pay an administrative penalty.
- 6.2. H&M Removals agrees and undertakes to pay an administrative penalty in the amount of R196 364.15 (One Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Rand, and Fifteen Cents). This administrative penalty represents 4% of H&M Removals' household local





and long distance division's turnover for the financial year ended February 2013.

6.3. H&M Removals shall pay the administrative penalty set out in paragraph 6.2 above to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order of the Tribunal.

6.4. The administrative penalty payable by H&M Removals in terms of this Consent Agreement shall be paid into the Commission's bank account which is as follows:

**Name: The Competition Commission Fee Account**

**Bank: Absa Bank, Pretoria**

**Account Number: 4050778576**

**Branch Code: 323 345**

**Ref: 2011Jun0069/ H&M Removals**

6.5. The administrative penalty will be paid over by the Commission to the National Revenue Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 59(4) of the Act.

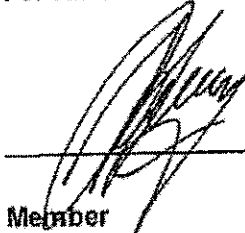
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## 7. Full and Final Settlement

This agreement, upon confirmation as an order of the Tribunal, is entered into in full and final settlement of the conduct set out in paragraph 2.5 above and concludes all proceedings between the Commission and H&M Removals in respect of this conduct only.

Dated and signed at CAPE TOWN on the 6 day of JULY 2015

For H&M Removals CC

  
Member

Name in Full: ANTHONY JOHN HEAVEY

Dated and signed at PRETORIA on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015

For the Commission

  
Tembinkosi Bonakele  
Competition Commissioner