Notice of Inquiry on the Application for Authorisation of the Distribution Agreements between Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV and independent third-party distributors

It is hereby notified in terms of Rule 61(4) of the COMESA Competition Rules (the “Rules”) that the COMESA Competition Commission (the “Commission”), after receiving an application from Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV (“AB InBev”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 20 of the COMESA Competition Regulations (“Regulations”).

AB InBev has made an application for authorisation pursuant to Article 20 of the Regulations for various distribution agreements entered into between themselves and independent third-party distributors operating in the Common Market, namely: Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Uganda, and Zambia. AB InBev, the world’s largest beer brewing company, is a publicly traded company based in Leuven, Belgium, with secondary listings on the Mexico and South Africa stock exchanges and with American Depositary Receipts on the New York Stock Exchange. AB InBev offers more than 500 beverages brands, and 7 of the top 10 most valuable beer brands worldwide.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine among other things whether or not the agreements are likely to affect trade between Member States and have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market. In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties to the agreements to submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: smaseko@comesa.int. All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than 21st September 2018.

Should you require any clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our Ms. Siboniselizulu Maseko on +265 1 772 466 or via email at smaseko@comesa.int.

All written representations submitted to the Commission will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this inquiry.