



COMESA Competition Commission

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Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa

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PRESS RELEASE

REMINDER: SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES FOR THE COMESA COMPETITION COMMISSION WRITING COMPETITION FOR THE BUSINESS REPORTERS OPERATING IN THE COMMON MARKET ON COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MATTERS

A. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to the [writing competition for the business reporters that was launched by the COMESA Competition Commission \("the Commission"\) on 6 June 2023](#). The writing competition for business reporters operating in the Common Market is intended to enhance identification and reporting of anti-competitive business practices as well as consumer rights violations on the market, increase the number of written articles on competition and consumer protection in the Common market and ultimately enhance stakeholders' understanding of the need for competitive markets and ensuring consumer welfare.

The Commission is currently receiving submissions of written articles in any of the official languages of COMESA (Arabic, English and French), on competition and consumer protection matters. The articles must have been written during the period starting 6 June 2023 to 5 June 2024. Receipt of submissions started on 1st March and will close on **10 June 2024**. No submissions shall be allowed after the submission period.

The articles will be analyzed and subjected to a panel of judges who will select writers of the best articles for the award. The Commission will award the best two (2) journalists with a medal and a cash prize of USD 1500 for the winner and USD 1000 to the second best at the COMESA Business Reporters Workshop in the 3rd quarter of 2024.

B. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The basic assessment criteria for the awards will be based on (i) consistency in writing COMESA Competition and/or Consumer protection issues with at least three published

articles, the more articles the better but the candidate shall indicate the best three that should be scored (ii) writing of quality, accurate and relevant perspectives. (iii) ingenuity to provide relevant real-life examples, implications to the market or consumers to attract readership (iii) originality, properly referenced with reliable sources and expert's inputs. The evaluation will be done by a panel of judges. The judges' decision will be final.

C. BASIC GUIDELINES OF THE ARTICLES

Below are the basic guidelines to be put into consideration by the journalists. The article to be submitted must:

- Have responded to the topical areas provided by the Commission with clear demonstration of understanding of the COMESA topic and clearly linking the article to the COMESA Competition Regulations and Commission. The more such articles the better the score. Qualifying candidates must submit a minimum of three articles.
- Must meet journalism and publication standards with accurate and relevant perspectives; encompass right literary style with excellent grammar, free of spelling errors and cohesive. Details must have been placed in a logical order and presented in a manner that keeps the reader's interest.
- Demonstrate ingenuity, with insightful personal point of view, cross leveraging of experts' knowledge, use of relevant examples and written in a style that attracts readers.
- Include a minimum 400 words in a newspaper or magazine or digital platform with a national reach of about 5,000 readers.
- Article must be original, written by the journalist and published for the first time in the competition period with original thinking relative to the subject and properly referenced with reliable sources.

D. TOPICAL AREAS COVERED

Below are the topical areas that are within the scope of the competition. Please note that the list below is not exhaustive.

- i. Competition law, Trade and Development.
- ii. The effects of cartels on price, production, competition, and efficient operations of the COMESA Free Trade Area.
- iii. Danger posed by unnotified cross-border mergers.

- iv. Consumer challenges in the digital era.
- v. Consumer protection needs in the green revolution movement.
- vi. Protecting consumers from unsafe cross border products; or
- vii. Implication of excessive pricing by dominant firms.

The Commission therefore takes this opportunity to remind all business reporters from the different media houses that since 1 March 2024, it is open to receiving submissions. No submissions shall be allowed after 10 June 2024.

In case of need for any more clarification regarding the writing competition, please contact Mr. Steven Kamukama, Director, Consumer Welfare and Advocacy Division by email: skamukama@comesacompetition.org and copy jmwesige@comesacompetition.org.



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