

18 January 2024

CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 2 of 2024

Notice of Inquiry into the Proposed Merger involving Kuramo Africa Opportunity Kenyan Vehicle Ltd and Trans-Century PLC

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26(6) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”) that the COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”), after receiving a notification in terms of Article 24 of the Regulations regarding the proposed merger involving Kuramo Africa Opportunity Kenyan Vehicle Ltd (“**Kuramo**” or the “**acquiring undertaking**”) and Trans-Century PLC (“**Trans-Century**” or the “**target**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

The parties have submitted that Kuramo is an institutional private equity investor incorporated in Mauritius with company registration number 141425. Its purpose is to invest in several countries and sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. Kuramo operates in the following sectors in the Common Market: business services, financial services, fast moving consumer goods, agriculture and infrastructure. In the Common Market, Kuramo is active in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The parties have submitted that Trans-Century is a public company limited by shares incorporated in Kenya with company registration number C4/2009 and is listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange. Trans-Century is an African focused private equity investor that invests in companies and projects within the infrastructure sector, providing engineering solutions and the manufacturing electric equipment and components. In the Common Market, the target is active in Kenya, Mauritius, Uganda and Zambia.

The proposed transaction entails Kuramo increasing its shareholding in the target to approximately 74%. The parties have submitted that the proposed transaction will enable the target to use the capital raised to settle part of its debt obligations and to unlock additional working capital financing for itself and its subsidiaries. This is in line with its recovery and growth strategy.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether the proposed transaction is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether the proposed transaction is or would be contrary to the public interest as provided for under Article 26 of the Regulations.

In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties to the proposed transaction to submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: sbundhun@comesacompetition.org. All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **8 February 2024**.

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this proposed transaction or need assistance you may get in touch with **Ms. Sunjida Bundhun, Senior Analyst, Competition Division** on Tel: +265 111 772 466 or sbundhun@comesacompetition.org.

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.