



COMESA Competition Commission

Kang'ombe House - 5th Floor

P.O. Box 30742

Lilongwe 3, Malawi

Tel: +265 (0)111 772 466/529/530

+265 (0) 999 970 269

Email: compcom@comesacompetition.org



Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa

29 May 2024

COMESA Competition Commission Extends Period for assessment of the merger involving National Cement Holding Limited and Cimerwa Plc

The COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”) hereby informs the public and relevant stakeholders that on 20 May 2024, it received approval from the Committee Responsible for Initial Determinations for an extension of the statutory period for the assessment of the proposed merger involving National Cement Holding Limited and Cimerwa Plc, pursuant to Article 25(2) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”).

Article 25(1) of the Regulations provides that the Commission shall examine a merger within 120 days. Further, Article 25(2) of the Regulations provides that if prior to the expiry of the 120-day period, the Commission has decided that a longer time period is necessary, it shall so inform the parties and seek an extension from the Board.

In its consideration of the proposed transaction, the CID observed that likely competition concerns may arise in the market for the manufacturing and supply of cement and supply of clinker in Rwanda. Therefore, the CID has directed that further investigation be conducted in Rwanda to ascertain whether the transaction will be anticompetitive, post-merger.

The statutory assessment period for the transaction would have expired on 11 June 2024. The Commission has been granted additional time to further assess the likely competition concerns that the transaction may raise in Rwanda.

Having regard to the above, the Committee Responsible for Initial Determinations granted an extension of 30 days starting from **12 June 2024 to 12 July 2024**.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the identification of preliminary concerns does not prejudice the outcome of the Commission’s assessment.

More information on the transaction is available on the Commission's [Merger Cases](#) webpage, under the case number [CCC/MER/01/03/2024](#).

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this transaction, you may get in touch with **Mr. Ali Kamanga, Principal Analyst, Competition Division**, on +265 (0) 111 772 466 or via email at akamanga@comesacompetition.org.