



MERGER DECISION NO 12: 2015

DECISION ON THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF 60% SHARES IN BMS (PTY) LTD, OFFICE TECHNIQUE (PTY) LTD AND RANGECOM (PTY) LTD BY BIDVEST OFFICE HOLDINGS

PURSUANT to section 60(4)(a)(ii) of the Competition Act (Cap 46:09), notice is hereby given on the decision made by the Competition Authority in respect of the proposed acquisition of 60% shares in BMS (Pty) Ltd, Office Technique (Pty) Ltd and Rangecom (Pty) Ltd by Bidvest Office Holdings.

The Authority determined to unconditionally authorise the proposed transaction on the grounds that the merger does not raise any competition concerns in the markets for office equipment/furniture and stationery supplies due to lack of geographical and product overlaps in the activities of the merging parties.

The Authority is of the view that the market is fragmented and therefore there is sufficient post-merger competitive constraints posed by other competitors such as Canon, Century Office Supplies and Rep Office Supplies which have more market shares than BMS (estimated at 8%). It is further noted that the transaction will result in the recapitalisation of an existing local business in Botswana.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 55 of the Competition Act of Botswana, the Authority has unconditionally approved the proposed merger. However, as stated under section 66 of the Act, this approval does not override or negate any other mandatory statutory approvals or processes that any of the parties to this merger must comply with under the Laws of Botswana.

Dated at Gaborone this 21st day of April, 2015

Thula Kaira, Chief Executive Officer, Competition Authority, P/Bag 00101, Gaborone, Plot 28, Matsitama Road, Tel: 3934278 Fax: 3121013