



MERGER NOTICE NO 1: 2016

THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF 80% ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL IN VIRTUAL BUSINESS NETWORK SERVICES (PTY) LTD BY SYNERGY COMMUNICATIONS

Pursuant to section 56(1) of the Competition Act (Cap 46:09), the Competition Authority has received a merger notification for the proposed acquisition of 80% issued share capital in Virtual Business Network Services (Pty) Ltd ("VBN") by Synergy Communications ("Syncom").

Syncom, the acquiring firm, is a company incorporated under the Laws of Mauritius. Syncom is considered to be an investment platform for enterprise and wholesale communication service providers, which amalgamates fixed and wireless technologies across sub-Saharan Africa. Syncom is controlled by Convergence Partners Communications Infrastructure Fund Limited Partnership (based in South Africa) and Convergence Partners Communications Infrastructure Fund (Mauritius) Limited (based in Mauritius). Syncom currently has investments in corporate internet service providers based in Malawi and Mozambique. Syncom and its shareholders do not have any operations in Botswana.

VBN, the target enterprise, is a private company incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of Botswana. VBN is owned by Stuart Brown and Grand Shand (British nationals). VBN provides information and technology products and services such as: data centres, wireless application network services, internet services, specialised network equipment, multitenant building networks and fixed wireless links.

According to section 57(3), of the Competition Act, "any person, including a third party not a party to the proposed merger, may voluntarily submit to the inspector or the Authority any document, affidavit, statement or other relevant information in respect of a proposed merger". The Competition Authority therefore seeks any stakeholder views for or against the proposed merger, which may be sent within 10 days from date of this publication to the following address:

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