



**Welcome Remarks Delivered by the Chairperson of the Competition Commission, Dr Onkemetse Tshosa on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Avani Hotel during the National Competition Symposium**

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**Vice Chancellor of the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST)-Professor Otlogetswe Totolo**

**Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions represented here**

**Competition Commission Members**

**Chief Executive Officer of the CA- Mme Tebelelo Pule**

**Representatives of various Government departments and parastatal organisations**

**Private Sector representatives**

**Competition Authority MOU Partners**

**Members of the Press**

**Management and staff of the Competition Authority**

**Distinguished participants**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

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1. Director of Ceremonies, I am so elated to be here today on the occasion of the National Competition Symposium.
2. Over the years the Competition Authority has held a number of workshops and conferences, all of which were intended to build competition culture and to deepen the understanding of the mandate

of the Authority and indeed that of the Competition Commission, which governs and adjudicates on competition matters.

3. Today's meeting is stylised as a symposium and this is the first symposium since inception. I am thoroughly convinced that by looking at the planned activities and engagements they will be huge lessons to be drawn from this symposium.
4. There has been a deliberate attempt to draw a diverse group of participants to enrich our learning, particularly on vertical integration.
5. Director of Ceremonies, this symposium is an active response to the need to engage on real business issues that assails businesses on a daily basis.
6. You will all agree with me that businesses are in a direct way affected or even disrupted by integrations that have come to define our trade environment.
7. The discourse on state utilities has gained momentum over the years. With the advent of competition law in Botswana there is some expectation from quarters that state monopolies will recede. Today, the Competition Authority provides us with a formal platform to dispassionately discuss the effect of statutory monopolies in the Botswana economy within the context of competition.
8. Director of Ceremonies, as you are all aware the Authority is on the cusp of exciting history. In the not too distant future, the Authority will be transformed into the Competition and Consumer Authority. Once the two Acts have been commissioned, the Authority will implement the Competition Act and the Consumer Protection Act.

9. I might just add that these two Acts complement each other and it was only natural that the two Acts be housed under one Authority. During the course of today's symposium, you will also get an opportunity to appreciate the readiness of the Authority in implementing the two Acts.
  
10. Director of Ceremonies, I am so excited by today's programme that I cannot wait to take my seat and learn from the various vantage points that are on offer.
  
11. Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen let me officially welcome you all to the 2019 Competition Symposium.
  
12. I thank you.