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Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

PRESS STATEMENT **Tuesday, 17th March, 2020**

WARNING TO SELLERS OF PRODUCTS PURPORTING THEY CAN CURE CORONA VIRUS

The COMESA Competition Commission (the "Commission") wishes to issue a warning to all companies and individuals that are selling products not medically tested and approved which they claim can treat or prevent the Corona Virus. Such companies and individuals are advised to refrain from such conduct as it is contrary to Article 27 of the COMESA Competition Regulations ('the Regulations). If any such company or individual are found wanting, the Commission will not hesitate to apply the provisions of the Regulations which include sanctions of up to USD300,000.

Consumers in the Common Market are advised to be on the lookout for such scams and report any suspicions either directly to the Commission or through any Consumer Protection Agency in their country of residence.

Further, consumers are advised to follow advice on prevention of Corona Virus from the relevant institution's websites such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) website, Centre for Disease and Prevention (CDC) including their local public health authorities.

Should you require more information or clarification on the matter you may contact the Commission on +265 1 772 466 or email: compcom@comesa.int.

George K Lipimile
Director & Chief Executive Officer